Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-169
Wednesday
31 August 1988

Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-88-169 31 August 1988

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LD3108130388 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Khomeyni Guidance—Iranians must not assume that the war has ended but should rather assume they are "still at war," Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni warned in remarks to other Iranian leaders broadcast by Tehran radio. He said this is because the enemies of Islam—whether the United States, the USSR, or their "surrogates" like Saddam Husayn—are "constantly plotting" and "respect nothing." The Iranian people and Armed Forces should accordingly remain in readiness and the fronts should remain "full" of combatants.

On the "extremely important" issue of reconstruction, Khomeyni called for the establishment of a committee comprising state leaders and the prime minister to determine priorities and to supervise the process. "People should be free in matters of trade" after the war has ended, he indicated, but there must still be government supervision to avoid "corruption" and the import of "corrupt" goods.

Khomeyni's remarks came in response to a request from President 'Ali Khamene'i for "guidance and advice" from the imam concerning the "difficult path" facing the nation.

Geneva Talks—Commenting on "rumors" that the UN secretary general is preparing a three-point plan to break the deadlock in the negotiations, members of the Iranian delegation cited by Tehran radio said they are "completely unaware" of the existence of any such plan. In an interview broadcast by Tehran television, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stressed that Iraq's "new preconditions," such as the dredging of the Shatt al-'Arab, are unacceptable to Iran.

He confirmed Iran is also rejecting Iraq's demand that Iran waive its right to inspect Iraqi shipping in the Strait of Hormuz prior to the establishment of a peace agreement.

The UN secretary general told journalists in Geneva that the Shatt al-'Arab issue is not the only difficulty impeding progress in the negotiations and confirmed "the ceasefire at sea is part of the problem," according to KUNA. Meanwhile, UN experts held further separate talks with members of the Iraqi and Iranian delegations, INA noted.

Diplomacy—Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi arrived in Paris where he said he will explain the Iraqi negotiating stand to French officials, INA reported. The agency also noted that Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan conveyed messages from President Saddam Husayn to the amir of Kuwait and to the king of Saudi Arabia.

The messages concerned Iraq's "firm stand" in the negotiations concerning the cease-fire, freedom of navigation in the Gulf, and the Shatt al-'Arab. Ramadan disclosed after returning to Baghdad. Ramadan had earlier held talks in Baghdad with a visiting Turkish official, who conveyed a message concerning the "latest developments in regional issues," according to Ankara radio.

Western Sahara

A peace proposal by the UN secretary general that calls for a cease-fire to be followed by a self-determination referendum has been accepted "in principle" by Morocco and "subject to certain conditions" by the SDAR, Algiers radio announced. Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdelatif Filali said the referendum could be held in the "fairly near future," according to KUNA.

SDAR President Mohammed Abdelaziz stressed the Polisario's "adherence" to a number of "fundamental elements" to "guarantee" a solution including direct negotiations, the establishment of a neutral international administration in the area, the "withdrawal" of Moroccan "settlers," and a "wide and more effective role" for the OAU, Algiers radio reported.

The Spanish Government expressed "satisfaction" with the countries' responses to the peace initiative and offered technical assistance to update its 1974 census of the area to prepare for the referendum, Madrid radio reported.

Libya

In a speech to members of the Revolutionary Committees Movement broadcast by Tripoli television 29 August, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi lauded the role of the committees in promoting revolution and building the "jamahiriyah," but he acknowledged that some committee members were guilty of "excesses" and of carrying out their program with "a number of mistakes and negativeness." Some individuals "from the forces of oppression and exploitation" managed to infiltrate the committees to exploit them and "grievances did take place," he said.

However, the committees "physically liquidated" those of their members who had made the movement "deviate from its course," he added.

Al-Qadhdhafi called for a "new stage" in the development of the Libyan Jamahiriyah in which "the masses themselves—and not the revolutionary committees—confront their enemies." The committees should confine their activities to working within the People's Congresses, and should eventually "disappear" as the congresses become stronger and assume greater power.

Another aspect of this new stage in establishing the "model" jamahiriyah will be the enactment of a "consolidation of freedom law," Al-Qadhdhafi said, noting this will encourage people to establish markets and companies on their own initiative. In this regard, he commended the unofficial "black-markets" as examples of a spontaneous popular response to economic needs.

Contending that the superpowers are being "influenced" by the new developments in Libya, Al-Qadhdhafi claimed that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is leading the USSR toward a "jamahiriyah," having realized the "sterility" of Marxist communism.

As for the United States, he asserted that President Reagan's "demented and stupid" administration is now "in its death throes" and predicted that no new U.S. Administration will be so "stupid" as to bring about more U.S. "defeats and losses throughout the world."

Lebanon

Security—One man was killed and seven children were injured by a car-bomb explosion in Shtawrah, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported. In the south, soldiers of the South Lebanese Army killed a "terrorist" and captured two others in separate incidents near the Israeli border, according to Jerusalem and IDF radio reports.

Hostages—Anglican Church envoy John Brown stated he has received some "encouraging" responses in Beirut concerning the fate of four Iranians kidnapped in East Beirut 6 years ago, the Voice of the Mountain reported. According to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, U.S. hostage William Richard Higgins may be detained in the Hizballah-controlled Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks near Ba'labakk.

Israel

Territories—Six Arabs and three Israelis were hurt in incidents 30 August, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that five of the Arabs were wounded by IDF gunfire during a clash in the Nabulus casbah. The Israelis were all hurt by stones. The radio noted that a general strike was in progress throughout the territories 31 August.

Rabin on Syria—Asked about the supply of advanced Sukhoy aircraft to Syria, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told Jerusalem television that Israel believes Syria and the USSR signed a new arms deal early this year which provides for the supply of tanks, SS-21 missiles, MiG-29's, and possibly "other advanced aircraft." However, this "does not denote a significant strategic change in the balance of power between Syria and Israel," he asserted.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril said he will "form a rival Palestine liberation organization" if PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat declares a Palestinian government-in-exile, Voice of Lebanon radio revealed. Jibril said if 'Arafat proceeds with the plan the PFLP-GC will boycott the upcoming PNC session and invite its members to "another" meeting.

An official spokesman for the Palestine National Salvation Front stated that a PLO committee and representatives from the occupied territories have prepared for PLO Executive Committee approval a plan naming 12 proposed members of the government-in-exile, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon disclosed.

In Egypt, President Husni Mubarak said his country will agree with "whatever the PLO decides" on regarding the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state provided the decision is based on "wisdom and accurate calculations," Cairo radio reported.

Kuwait-USSR

Cooperation with the USSR is "rapidly progressing" and Kuwait's agreement to purchase Soviet military equipment is "evidence" of the "strength of relations" between the two countries, according to the chief of the Army General Staff cited by KUNA. The military delegation met in Moscow with the Soviet first deputy defense minister to discuss bilateral issues and the situation in the Gulf, KUNA and TASS reported.

Afghanistan

Soviet armored columns deployed on a "strategic hill" in central Kabul and the Afghan Government "tightened security" after reports that 1,000 rebels had "infiltrated" the city to either "assassinate or convert" PDPA officials, according to "Western diplomats" cited by AFP.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman issued a statement accusing the U.S. Government of spreading "unbridled propaganda" in its statement that roads used by returning refugees have been mined, Kabul radio announced. The spokesman accused the United States of trying to "terrify" the refugees and declared that all return routes are safe.

Palestinian Affairs

Klibi, Khalaf Praise U.S. Decision on PLO Office

JN3008183888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has said the U.S. decision not to appeal a New York court ruling against the closure of the PLO UN office demonstrates that U.S. policy is capable of developing to take into consideration new facts resulting from the Palestinians' uprising in the occupied territory.

Yesterday, the U.S. Justice Department announced the U.S. Government had decided not to appeal the New York court ruling after careful discussion and in view of foreign policy considerations.

Fatah Central Committee Member Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] expressed the hope the decision will be the beginning of a new U.S. Middle East policy pertaining to the Palestinian issue and people. Abu Iyad said the Palestinian people appreciate every fair U.S. stand because it constitutes the beginning of a trend to find a just political solution to the Middle East problem through an international conference in which all parties concerned participate.

Salah Khalaf Interviewed on Palestinian State

AU3008144188 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 29 Aug 88 pp 131-136

[Interview with PLO official Salah Khalaf—identified by his nom de guerre Abu Iyad—in his home in Tunis by SPIEGEL editors Dieter Wild and Adel Elias; date not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Abu Iyad, are we talking to the interior minister of a future Palestinian government-in-exile?

Abu Iyad: It is my greatest hope that a Palestinian state may finally emerge, a democratic and peaceful Palestine. My future function in this state is unimportant for the moment.

SPIEGEL: When will a Palestinian government-in-exile be formed?

Abu Iyad: A commission is currently examining this. I anticipate the proclamation of a Palestinian government in September this year.

SPIEGEL: Will the Palestinian National Council agree?

Abu Iyad: The time for proclaiming a Palestinian government-in-exile has never been as ripe as it is now. We have let slip many opportunities. Now we have to make up for former mistakes.

SPIEGEL: But you once said: "If we form a government-in-exile, there will have to be a territory and a people. We do not have either; our territory is occupied and the people are suppressed." Has anything changed?

Abu Iyad: You quoted me correctly. Until 6 months ago, I was definitely opposed to proclaiming a government-in-exile. However, meanwhile intifadah [uprising], the Palestinian revolt, broke out in the occupied territories. Meanwhile, King Husayn of Jordan cut the legal and administrative links with the West Bank. Both factors have forced me to change my mind. I am sure that it is now appropriate to form a government-in-exile.

SPIEGEL: Intifadah was the spontaneous revolt of young stone-throwers, after the PLO's struggle of many years had come to nothing. Is that not depressing for a liberation movement?

Abu Iyad: You are trying to provoke me, but you will not succeed. Intifadah is a child of the PLO and the PLO leadership. Should you doubt that nevertheless: The perfidious assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] by the Israelis here in Tunis is the best proof of the fact that the intifadah is being led by the PLO.

SPIEGEL: No self-criticism?

Abu Iyad: I admit that the generation of intifadah is entirely different from the generation of the PLO leadership. In other words, it is different from my generation. It is even better and more efficient than we are. Yet, this intifadah is our child. I am very proud of this child because it is better than its parents.

SPIEGEL: Why did the PLO give birth to this child precisely in December last year?

Abu Iyad: Every pregnancy needs its time. If you watched things closely, you certainly did not fail to see that the child was bound to be born sometime. Even the labor had already begun.

SPIEGEL: When King Husayn practically cut the links with the occupied West Bank, what did he have in mind? Did he really intend to hand over the best part of his state to the PLO?

Abu Iyad: Husayn was forced to cut the links. The Americans and Israelis let him down despite all his offers. In addition, he had realized in the course of time that we would not dance to his tune. So he told the Americans, you do not want to help me, and told us you do not want me to represent you. Okay, then see if you can manage. He intended to corner us. But we will not let him.

SPIEGEL: Did Husayn also make his statement on the separation because he suspected that intifadah might spread to the eastern part of Jordan?

Abu Iyad: At any rate, he was getting alarmed, because the flow of Palestinians from the territories occupied by Israel to Jordan was constantly growing and he probably also suspected the Israelis would force more and more Palestinians to go to his Kingdom.

SPIEGEL: Perhaps he only wants to prove that the PLO would not be able to fill the vacuum left by Jordan. Will there now be PLO passports, which would certainly not be recognized by Israel? Who will in the future take charge of paying the Jordanian salaries in the West Bank?

Abu Iyad: We negotiated on all that with Jordan and the results are better than we had anticipated. The Jordanian Government will renew the passports of our citizens for 2 years. Then, the passports will possibly be changed into traveling documents. Thus, no citizen who in the past has had a Jordanian passport needs to be afraid of being suddenly left without a passport. The payment of our civil servants has also been ensured. Jordan has agreed to continue to treat these people as it has done in the past. It stands to reason that we will pay the major part of the costs.

SPIEGEL: Is Husayn secretly hoping that, contritely, the Palestinians in the West Bank will some day call him back?

Abu Iyad: Right. His decision is a message that says: "You will not be able to solve the problem." What is on the king's mind is the old fear of plans by radical Israelis like Ari'el Sharon that a Palestinian state could also be founded in the eastern part of Jordan.

SPIEGEL: Without intending to side with Sharon—is there not some truth in it? Some 1.1 million Palestinians live east of the Jordan and some 850,000 west of it. So could you not say the core of a Palestinian state was indeed east of the Jordan?

Abu Iyad: What kind of logic would that be? Then sovereignty would be given to a people over a territory to which they were deported or to which they fled, whereas their old homeland remains occupied by another people. It would be much more logical to restore the rights of these people, who were deprived of them, including their sovereignty over their old homeland.

SPIEGEL: If there were to be a Palestinian state only in the West Bank, what would be its relations with the 1.1 million Palestinians in Husayn's kingdom?

Abu Iyad: Regarding our understanding of a state, we consider the geographical factor less important than the political factor. We want to have a state, so that every Palestinian, no matter where he lives—be it in Alaska or Australia, Africa or America—can say: I have a homeland: Palestine. I have a Palestinian identity and Palestinian citizenship. We are fed up with constantly being pushed around as a people who have no identity.

SPIEGEL: There are about 5 million Palestinians on the earth. If only part of them were to come to a Palestinian state in the West Bank, would this state be able to handle that?

Abu Iyad: There is room for many, but I am sure not all of them want to come. It is not important for a Palestinian to actually return to his homeland from which he was expelled, but it is important for him to have a homeland like other people, too.

SPIEGEL: Many Arab countries face a state of Palestine with mixed feelings.

Abu Iyad: All Arab regimes are afraid of intifadah, in particular the Syrian regime.

SPIEGEL: But as you know, Yasir 'Arafat and President al-Asad became reconciled so spectacularly during the funeral of Abu Jihad in Damascus.

Abu Iyad: I was present at this reconciliation. We even exchanged very fraternal kisses, as Arabs would always do. But our hearts were full of grudges and hatred. That is very regrettable. It is hard for us and for all Arabs, but that is how it is: We kiss, yet our hearts remain hard, like stones.

SPIEGEL: You are a graduate psychologist. What type of man is Al-Asad?

Abu Iyad: Hafiz al-Asad is a passionate Arab nationalist who does not tire of hatching plans for an Arab union. He wants to unite all Arabs, but at the same time he wants to restore his greater Syrian empire. He does not proclaim it loudly, but he is constantly quietly working at it. As a politician he has outstanding intelligence and at the same time he is very refined. He always wants to be open to all sides. He never breaks with the Americans and never with the Soviets. He breaks with no one. That is typical of all Syrian leaders. They never slam the door shut for good.

SPIEGEL: But what does that mean for a Palestinian state?

Abu Iyad: After the funeral of Abu Jihad, Al-Asad told us quite frankly: "I am an Arab nationalist. I do not want the Arab nation to be even more divided. Therefore, I am opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state. In addition, Palestine has always been part of Syria."

SPIEGEL: His Defense Minister Talas recently told us: "There are 21 Arab states, that is sufficient."

Abu Iyad: Yes, this is what it is like in our region: In Syria there is a defense minister who is more concerned about growing roses and good cooking than about a strategy to liberate Palestine.

SPIEGEL: Talas talks like the Israelis?

Abu Iyad: Yes, indeed. When you hear what the Syrian and the Israeli radios say about a Palestinian state, you cannot distinguish between the two of them: the same language, the same arguments. Both are against us; they do not want a Palestinian state.

SPIEGEL: The proclamation of a Palestinian state in the occupied territories would be linked with a de facto recognition of Israel. To date, 'Arafat has repeatedly stated: "The recognition of Israel is our last trump card. If we play it and it does not take the trick, everything will be lost." Why should this card now take the trick?

Abu Iyad: The proclamation of a Palestinian state is nothing other than the implementation of UN Resolution 181, the 1947 plan for division.

SPIEGEL: In 1947 the Arabs rejected this plan for division, which was so favorable for them.

Abu Iyad: I admit that the Arab leaders at that time made a devastating mistake when they rejected the plan. Today we are correcting this historical mistake and demand an independent Palestinian state in accordance with the UN plan for division.

SPIEGEL: After you have refused to recognize Israel for 41 years?

Abu Iyad: When we refuse to recognize the State of Israel, it is not because of reasons of principle, but because we do not know which Israel we would actually recognize, since until now Israel has not defined its borders.

SPIEGEL: UN Resolution 181 exactly defines this border on many pages. According to this, Israel would have to give up cities such as Jaffa, Acra, Nazareth, and Beersheba. Is this the new Palestinian realism?

Abu Iyad: For me the UN plan for division provides political justification, not a geographic one. One can negotiate about the geographic justification, but not about the political justification. Therefore, I say: Let us all—with equal rights—go to an international conference to solve the Middle East problem and let us negotiate where the borders of the two states have to be drawn.

SPIEGEL: Where would that be?

Abu Iyad: According to the UN plan for division, we are entitled to 49 percent of Palestinian soil, and Israel is entitled to 51 percent. The West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which are now occupied by Israel, are only part of the territory adjudged to us by Resolution 181.

SPIEGEL: Thus, Israel would have to give up much of the territory it has had for 40 years. Do you think that something like that is possible?

Abu Iyad: I do not want to make any definite comment yet and to geographically define where the borders of my state should be. I say: We have the unrepeatable chance for negotiations. Let us not have it pass by without results, but let us negotiate! However, I cannot negotiate about our political demand for a Palestinian homeland.

SPIEGEL: You said Israel has not defined its own borders, but you do not want to define the borders of Arab Palestine, either. What about the PLO demand for the Palestinian "right to return" to all areas of Palestine where they once lived?

Abu Iyad: The right to return is an inalienable right, which was adjudged to us and repeatedly affirmed by the United Nations in several resolutions. This is unshakable and cannot be negotiated.

SPIEGEL: Then this chance is not a chance at all.

Abu Iyad: An international peace conference will show this. UN Resolution 194 grants full compensation to those expelled and refugees who do not want to return. Why would this be not correct? Take me as an example. In my hometown of Jaffa my house was seized and given to an Israeli immigrant. I have never received any compensation. I do not have a home and a house; I am an expellee.

SPIEGEL: Do you actually want to return to your house?

Abu Iyad: Perhaps I do not want to return anymore. Perhaps I do not like the area anymore. But I do not give up my right to compensation. The Israelis, however, refuse to recognize our right to return or compensation. Therefore, I repeat: We should negotiate. We will certainly achieve results.

SPIEGEL: Have the Palestinians not long been compensated for their losses by the millions and billions donated by their rich Arab brothers?

Abu Iyad: I do not know why you speak of billions. As late as 1978 the Arab summit in Baghdad decided to grant $150 million per year in aid to the PLO. And this decision remained purely on paper. Only Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar paid their shares—$110 million per year. After 1983 Saudi

Arabia was the only country to pay; the other Arab states stopped their payments. Take 5 times 110—from 1978 to 1983—that is $550 million. All other figures are Israeli propaganda lies.

SPIEGEL: All over the world the press has reported that the PLO's wealth probably amounts to more than $4 billion.

Abu Iyad: If we had $4 billion, we would have bought up the international press you quoted—with the exception of DER SPIEGEL, of course, which is not for sale.

SPIEGEL: According to Resolution 181, an Arab and a Jewish state are to be established in Palestine and, in addition, a special international area under UN administration for Jerusalem. Now the PLO demands Jerusalem as the capital city of Palestine, and Israel demands Jerusalem as the capital city of Israel. How is this going to work?

Abu Iyad: Jerusalem must be the capital city of Palestine; the holy Al-'Aqsa Mosque must be under our sovereignty. We will not accept a Palestinian state without Jerusalem. However, we do accept the wish of the Jews to be able to go to their Wailing Wall. The holy sites must receive a special status that guarantees the Jews this extraterritorial access.

SPIEGEL: Guarantees are something rather uncertain. During Jordanian rule from 1948-67 no single Jew and no Israeli was permitted to approach the Wailing Wall.

Abu Iyad: And during Israeli rule three attacks have been carried out against the Al-'Aqsa Mosque. I say very frankly: Today we recognize the right of Jews to free access to the Wailing Wall and we guarantee this right. We will even demand this right at an international peace conference.

SPIEGEL: A Palestinian state without Jerusalem is impossible, you say. An Israeli state without Jerusalem is impossible, the Israelis say. If something can be achieved in this respect at all, this would be possible only by establishing an international territory in line with the 1947 plan for division.

Abu Iyad: If a peace conference is convened, we will find a solution there.

SPIEGEL: The proclamation of a Palestinian state in the occupied territories is an explosive matter within the PLO. Are you able to cope with this?

Abu Iyad: The Israelis have their Likud and we have our "Likuds." There are people who always say "no" on both sides. One has to ignore them. The Arab "Likuds" have brought nothing but misery to the Arabs. Many Palestinians were persecuted, arrested, tortured, and massacred. We will not forget that. When we have our state we will show them how right we were and how much wrong they did.

SPIEGEL: Those who say "no" in the PLO would have to agree to deleting, for instance, Article 15 from the PLO Charter, according to which "Zionism has to be eliminated from Palestine."

Abu Iyad: These are extremist demands that will be maintained as long as there is no Palestinian state. As soon as we have our state such problems will no longer be important.

SPIEGEL: How many states, do you think, will recognize a Palestinian exile government?

Abu Iyad: We are studying this at present. Unfortunately, I cannot tell you anything about the result yet.

SPIEGEL: It would be very unpleasant for you if important Arab states, such as Egypt, Syria, and perhaps also Jordan were to not recognize this state.

Abu Iyad: King Husayn said he will be the first to recognize our exile government.

SPIEGEL: If he says this, he will certainly be the last to do so.

Abu Iyad: We take him at his word. There is no problem with Egypt. Syria, however, will probably recognize us only 4 years after the FRG Government has done so.

SPIEGEL: What about Iraq?

Abu Iyad: It will also recognize us.

SPIEGEL: After the end of the Gulf war, Baghdad could now offer you soldiers if negotiations cannot be established. Do you consider it a problem that the military power might now be tempted to engage in activities somewhere else?

Abu Iyad: Much has changed in Iraq's mentality over the 8 years of the Gulf war. I am convinced that after this 8-year war Iraq will no longer be as extremist and unaccommodating as before.

SPIEGEL: But it considers itself to be the victor.

Abu Iyad: On the contrary. It is modest. I am certain that at present it is not a danger. And it has to continue watching Iran for 5 years or more. Therefore, I do not see any possibility that it might use its army somewhere else.

SPIEGEL: If there is to be a Palestinian government, where will it be located? In Algiers, Tunis, Cairo, Amman, Baghdad?

Abu Iyad: I cannot anticipate the decisions of the Palestinian National Council, which will hold its session in September. In my opinion, Tunis would be appropriate; Baghdad or Algiers would not be bad, either, but they are too far away.

SPIEGEL: Damascus?

Abu Iyad: You do not want to see us in prison, do you?

SPIEGEL: Amman?

Abu Iyad: Ideal.

SPIEGEL: This would make Husayn happy. However, wherever your government is, it is in danger because of potential domestic developments in the respective country—a coup d'etat, for instance.

Abu Iyad: A coup d'etat is no problem for us. We are used to packing our suitcases and moving on to another place. This has been our fate to date. We hope that we will be able to change it soon.

SPIEGEL: Israel's Prime Minister Shamir threatened his country would prevent a Palestinian exile government "by force, with an iron fist." Do you still feel safe after what happened to your fellow fighter Abu Jihad?

Abu Iyad: I am a believing Muslim and I am convinced no man lives one second longer than God has planned for him. When the great watchmaker decides that we have to die, we have to die. No man likes to die. However, we will remain loyal to our principles, no matter who threatens us. We do not deviate a single inch from our path.

SPIEGEL: Abu Iyad, thank you for this interview.

PFLP's Habash Reassured About Khalaf Statements

JN3008172688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Dubayy, 30 Aug (WAKH)—Informed Palestinian sources have said that the meeting being held by the Palestinian factions in Tunis under the chairmanship of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat seeks to formulate Palestinian alternatives for the forthcoming phase on the basis of the consultations in which political and legal committees as well as Palestinian figures representing all Palestinian leaderships participated.

Today's issue of Dubayy AL-BAYAN quoted these sources as saying they are optimistic over the stands being voiced by all the Palestinian leaders who are currently present in Tunis, including PFLP Secretary General George Habash and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah. The optimism of these sources is also derived from the high degree of awareness displayed by these leaders in their discussion of the overall developments of the Palestine question, especially those pertaining to Jordan's severance of administrative and legal ties with the occupied West Bank.

These sources said Dr George Habash, who has recently voiced concern over statements made by Salah Khalaf, Fatah Movement Central Committee member, on the partition resolution of 1947 received assurances from the Fatah Movement leadership that a decision in this regard has not been made so far and that all that was contained in statements by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and others are mere test balloons, as described by these sources.

The Palestinian sources affirmed it was agreed not to raise the issue of the Palestinians who enjoy rights of citizenship right now and to devote greater attention to the people inside the occupied territories and also to the need to win international recognition for a provisional Palestinian government as a step toward the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Hani al-Hasan on Palestinian State, Other Issues

JN2908203088 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 28 Aug 88 p 21

[Interview with Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified correspondent—date, place not given; published in conjunction with AL-YAWM AL-SABI']

[Excerpts] [Question] There have been two important regional developments: the end of the Gulf war and Jordan's disengagement from the West Bank. What is their effect on the Palestine question?

[Al-Hasan] Events have proven that the PLO leadership, and particularly Yasir 'Arafat, have since 1982 identified the features of the new international order that is being charted in the world. One of the reasons for the stiff steadfastness during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon and especially during the siege of Beirut was the awareness that the battle begun by Israel was a preparation for the period of international detente in 1985. I personally wrote an article on this issue dated 1 January 1982 entitled, "In Order That We Will Not Lose By Diplomacy What We Gained By the Gun." I wrote in the article that 1982 will be the year we are driven out of Lebanon in preparation for the detente of 1985. We were prepared for confrontations, and the climax of such confrontations is the uprising.

Palestinian action to bring about the Palestinian state must achieve two things: first, to suppress Israeli rejection of such a state, and second, to obtain Arab agreement to such a state. Thus, the uprising springs from a theory that the Palestinian state is not to be begged from the Israelis and Americans but wrested by force and sacrifice. Gaining Arab support requires above all a

change in the Jordanian stand, as such a stand is the label for the Arab stand. It is easy now to see that the uprising has succeeded in growing, expanding, and maintaining its continuity.

That has occurred as a result of the accumulation of many factors, including internal national unity, an understanding with the religious current—and I say current not party, a current whose effectiveness inside the occupied territory is important—and the iron-fist policy of Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. We are approaching the 10th month of the uprising, and it is our duty to prepare for the coming stage on the eve of the Israeli elections and after. Attempts will be made prior to November to suppress the uprising, even temporarily. The signs of the new stage have begun to appear: the increase in the number of deportees, the attacks on the popular committees, and so on. We in turn have invited our officials in the occupied territory to a series of meetings to draw up the Palestinian plan for the next 4 months.

The end of the Iraq-Iran war introduces a big improvement in the general situation in the region. It was not a surprise to us. According to our information from inside Iran, this year was the year to end the war, and we pinned great hopes on that. Iraq is the ally of the Palestinian revolution. Palestinian-Iraqi relations entered a new stage in 1979 and grew after 1980. The end of the war means that Iraq is ready to play a big role in the region, an influential role on the Arab and international levels. I do not deny that I wept for joy the day the cease-fire was officially announced.

[Question] You discussed the need to support the uprising. Would you like to tell us about the Palestinian political plan for the coming phase and the contacts with both Amman and Cairo as well as the alternatives, which the PLO will propose following the recent Jordanian measures?

[Al-Hasan] Most regional problems either have been resolved or are being negotiated and resolved. However, the Palestine question remains still an issue that has not yet been resolved by the two superpowers, despite the progress made in the recent meeting between the USSR official Polyakov and the U.S. official Murphy. We Palestinians should not be complacent because our enemy has authority on the ground, and can well reject outside pressures, as has been proven by Yitzhaq Shamir's rejection of George Shultz' ideas.

It is no secret that the U.S. secretary of state promised King Husayn he would pressure Shamir to accept the initiative before the end of this year. However, Shultz failed, which encouraged King Husayn to disengage relations [with the West Bank].

Therefore, the PLO should take the initiative in two directions. First, it should entrench our presence on the ground, give the people actual control of their own affairs by virtue of the uprising, and promote the quality of this control. Second, there should be a move forward so we will be able to promote the international equation and move toward an international conference. These are the issues we are studying today. We are aware that each world liberation movement begins as a revolution and looks forward to reaching a phase in which state establishments will be entrenched. Such entrenchment proves the success of liberation.

It is important for the declaration of state establishments to coincide with possession of a genuine ability to turn such pursuits into a reality and not an illusion. We are currently preparing a comprehensive study on how to declare national independence. This is no longer a difficult issue because the importance of declaring national independence has become clear in the minds of all the Palestinian people.

The second, more difficult, step is how we can form a government recognized by the world. Recognition of such a government also means recognition of its representation of the Palestinian people and its sovereignty over Palestinian territory. Given that any state's joining the United Nations requires approval by the Security Council as a prerequisite, and since the UN General Assembly votes are secured in our favor, we are studying how to benefit from international legitimacy, through which we can reach the Security Council.

If the United States opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state and the membership of a provisional government in the United Nations, then matters may be delayed. However, a Palestinian state will ultimately be established because both its own people and territory exist.

[Question] Before the problem related to this government, there are other problems such as the precedence of declaring a state and the extent that can be reached by the Palestinian political initiative. Has a decision been taken toward these issues?

[Al-Hasan] This is the essence of the subject. The beginning should be the Palestinian people's proclamation of their national independence and a declaration of independence. We believe that our people should, right from the beginning, have a declaration defining the rights of the Palestinian individual. Our next state will only be a democratic state, the state of the 21st century. This is our way to win the coming civilized battle between us and the Israelis. This will be followed by the government's program. The government is a land, people, and authority.

The issue of land is very important and I do not favor giving hasty details because it is our duty to define ourselves in a manner based on give and take. This means that giving alone should not be a price for birth, especially since we have wrenched the birth of the Palestinian people as a state through blood. These are

issues for negotiation within the framework of the international conference. If someone asks me about the borders of the state, I will reply by asking him about the solution he conceives for the issue of refugees. Issues are intermixed and should be discussed altogether.

[Question] Certain Palestinian statements call for the adoption of international legality.

[Al-Hasan] Every state seeking to be set up should approach the Security Council on the basis of international legality. Our international legality, we the Palestinians, is the 1947 partition resolution, which called for a Jewish and Arab state. Israel was the only state whose UN membership was conditional on the Lausanne protocols, which mean its commitment to borders and to the establishment of the Palestinian state. Talk about the partition resolution No 181 does not mean reference to the partition borders but to the international legality we possess.

Here I must explain a point. When the Palestinian revolution began in 1965, the land of Palestine was either under occupation, annexed to Jordan, or kept by Egypt as a trust. When the revolution began, Resolution 181 was before our eyes, but the major defeat in 1967 created a new fait accompli. It was a defeat for which the Palestinians were not responsible. This new fait accompli makes us state that Israel should totally withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967.

[Question] We have not asked about the results of the meetings which the Palestinian delegation, under Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, held in Amman and Cairo.

[Al-Hasan] The latest visit to Amman was very important. The Jordanian decision is the most important Arab decision to be taken in the last 40 years. It is true that the 1974 Rabat summit resolution recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, but, in practice, the interinvolvement between the PLO and Jordan on responsibilities continued. The world continued to wonder about the extent of Arab support for the aforementioned resolution.

We cannot gain international recognition before consolidating Arab recognition. Hence, King Husayn's move was a move in the right direction. He has terminated the political interinvolvement between himself and the PLO on the Palestinian issue, and has removed the last obstacle before the world's recognition, particularly the Western world, of the PLO's representation of its people.

To a large extent, the Arab factor in the Palestinian issue is governed by the Jordanian factor. Therefore, there must be a Jordanian-Palestinian understanding, which must be Arabized. King Husayn's move is courageous and days will prove that it was politically wise. What is required from us now is to employ this move. Jordan has distanced itself and we must now try to get nearer to it. In Amman, we felt that the stand was as clear as the sun. On his latest decisions, King Husayn told us: Whether we approve of it or not, we will immediately implement what we agree upon. If you want to close the [River Jordan] bridges, tell me. Of course we did not ask him for that. There was also a friendly discussion on the duration of passports. We demanded that passports be of a 4-year duration, and the Jordanians insisted on a 2-year duration. But these were only details. We agreed on issues of health and education.

In reality, Jordan did not create an administrative vacuum. What it did is to open the door before the PLO to say that it is the sole legitimate representative. For example, a discussion took place on Palestinians in Trans-Jordan who hold Jordanian passports. The Palestinian delegation proposed that we now begin our discussion of the confederation because if we were to reach an agreement, or a perception, then many matters can be easily solved, especially since Jordanian laws allow dual nationality.

With the brothers in Egypt, I think we are approaching a new stage in bilateral relations. There was an understanding between Jordan and Egypt based on the idea that any Egyptian stand toward the Palestinian issue must be discussed with Jordan. Hence, the Egyptian policy was based on adopting the results of Jordanian-Palestinian understanding and retreating at differences. Recently, a new situation emerged which will enable Egypt to move with the PLO and to depart from waiting positions. This will be consolidated if we succeed in our approach toward Jordan.

Undoubtedly, countries like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq can play a principal role in improving Jordanian-Palestinian reconciliation. In Cairo, our delegation under brother Abu Mazin, found that Egypt is ready—with lawyers and political committees—to discuss details and to give proposals. They put all their legal and political files and experience at our disposal. In the coming few days, Dr Usamah al-Baz will leave to meet with the Palestinian leadership and brother Yasir 'Arafat in order to discuss the nature of Egypt's backing of the PLO's program, which aims to declare national independence, form a provisional government, and obtain international recognition of such steps. [passage omitted]

[Question] The PLO is heading toward a PNC session. Do you think that the organization's views are close enough to allow the drafting of a new policy?

[Al-Hasan] I think that attaining a unified Palestinian stand no longer requires long arguments. There are cumulative experiences and collective memory among the basic Palestinian factions. Discussion is now confined to benefit, returns, and tactics rather than bases.

The decisive matter in this regard is the huge development of popular awakening. The people began to formulate their independence documents and place them before the leadership. Yasir 'Arafat has thus far received nine draft plans of national independence from the occupied territories.

Faysal al-Husayni's formula became famous because the Israelis laid their hands on it. The latest draft plan of the constitution and Palestinian human rights charter also came from the occupied territory.

[Question] All signs indicate that the Likud might unilaterally assume power in Israel following the next elections. Accordingly, what are the expectations?

[Al-Hasan] The Likud's assumpton of power will indicate the eruption of a large-scale confrontation between the Palestinians and the Israeli army. We should know that Shamir's assumption of power might mean war in the region and further struggle. The Jordanian Government realized that the Likud's assumption of power would mean giving preponderance to the idea of "the alternative homeland" and this has encouraged it to draw up limits to resist any evacuation.

Therefore, I stressed at the beginning of this interview the need to be prepared to face the next 4 months, especially since we believe that if Shim'on Peres assumes power he will also practice the policy of repression even for the sake of other political objectives. Confrontation is imposed on us in both cases and we have to be prepared to succeed in this test.

It is important for us to keep away from the logic of being a charitable organization in political action. Making any wrong concession will encourage the enemy to ask for further concessions. It is true that we are in the last quarter of the hour. That is, the world has entered a new stage due to international reconciliation through which tension ends and which might extend 10 or 15 years.

At this stage we must make gains so that when tension returns in the future we will be at an above zero position and a party in the coming world. The last quarter of the hour is not a month or weeks. It means that the flag of the Palestinian state will rise within 2 or 3 years if we triumph. Otherwise, the issue will be shelved. Hence, we should study the steps and realize that any step we take should have a militant nature. Preserving the militant character is important in stands, practices, and political struggle.

PFLP-GC's Jibril Threatens To Form Rival PLO

NC3108060488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril has emphasized he will not meet with Yasir 'Arafat under any circumstances because the latter has expressed his readiness to recognize Israel. Jibril threatened that if 'Arafat proceeds with his plans to announce a Palestinian government-in-exile, he will then form a rival Palestine liberation organization. Jibril added he will not attend the PNC session. He declared: If 'Arafat proclaims a state, then we will invite the council to another meeting.

PNSF Spokesman Names Government Members

NC3008195288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] The official spokesman for the PNSF in Beirut has revealed that a PLO committee and representatives from the West Bank and Gaza sector have prepared a plan for the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile. This plan will be implemented as soon as the PLO Executive Committee approves it.

The spokesman said the government, headed by 'Arafat, will be formed of the following 11 persons: George Habash, Nayif Hawatimah, Hanna Sinyurah, Fayiz Abu Rahmah, Ilyas Frayj, Edward Said, Ibrahim Abu Najm, Walid Khalidi, Zuhdi Tarazi, 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sayih, and Khalid al-Hasan, who will hold the foreign relations portfolio in place of Faruq Qaddumi.

Chad

Libyan Violation of Airspace on 28 Aug Reported

AB3008204988 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Libyan planes on 28 August overflew the town of (Ouri) in the Tibesti region. Libyan violation of our airspace, which occurs nearly every day, takes place at a time when the OAU and certain African heads of state are making every effort to restore peace between Ndjamena and Tripoli.

With such acts by the Tripoli authorities, can one believe in the declarations by the Libyan colonel to cooperate with Chad? Whatever the case, the government and people of Chad, faithful to the OAU statutes, faithful to the decisions of the OAU ad hoc committee concerning the respect of the cease-fire declared between the two countries [words indistinct] to contribute loyally and sincerely to any initiative aimed at restoring peace between Ndjamena and Tripoli.

Cadres Urged To Eschew Selfishness, Dissent

AB3008153188 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The second meeting of the UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution] Central Committee Awareness Delegation and public officials was held this afternoon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The staff and heads of services who met the UNIR Central Committee delegation this afternoon were from five ministries: National Education, Livestock and Rural Water Supply, Tourism and Environment, Agriculture, and Rural Development.

As did the previous meeting, this one laid emphasis on the importance of safeguarding the fatherland. Because Chad is going through a difficult moment in its history, it is better placed than anyone alse to better understand this situation. In this connection, we bring you an extract of the address of Comrade El Hadj Djime Dougou:

[Begin recording] As cadres, you are in a better position to understand the difficulties our country is facing. The authorities of the Third Republic, particularly our president, Comrade Hissein Habre, are not indifferent to these difficulties. Indeed, from 7 June 1982 to the present, the social conditions of Chadians, and of the toiling masses in particular, constitute a priority for the government. Since that time, first 50 percent, and later 60 percent of salaries have been regularly paid, despite the difficulties of the Treasury and despite the costly bloody war imposed on us by Libya. Better still, efforts have been made at all levels to ensure that full salaries are paid to everybody.

Moreover, some ministries have been receiving their full salaries for a long time now. For the others, the government has not lost sight of the situation, and it is with the support and participation of everybody that the situation will improve. But above all, cadres should never lose sight of the fact that we are still in a war situation. There are some Chadians who [words indistinct] devote all their life to the defense of the fatherland, and they do this in a very difficult social and material condition. Chadians like us are shedding their blood and laying down their lives to defend and save the fatherland, and yet they have never asked for payment of full salaries or for the improvement of their social condition simply because they are aware of the fighting in which the entire Chadian people are engaged.

In this regard, cadres who are supposed to better undersand the situation than anybody else should rather work for the rebuilding of the country and for the liberation of our occupied lands by transcending material considerations. What is important for us is to safeguard the fatherland and prepare for a better life once the danger is over. We must first of all get a fatherland, a territory, a peaceful home before thinking about anything else. I think that [words indistinct] will never solve the problems of Chad as a free and sovereign nation.

The second aspect of my statement concerns the opportunistic attitudes of certain cadres. In fact, quite recently, and even today, a certain number of cadres resist and even refuse categorically to join the UNIR and to serve the Chadian nation. Some of them are even thinking of installing a multi-party system to attain their sectarian and divisionist goals. We believe such an attitude should disappear.

First of all because the situation in which our country is imposing demands that we consolidate our regained unity and the strengthening of the achievements of the 7 June 1982 movement—in a nutshell, the preservation of the territorial integrity, the reconstruction, and the socioeconomic rebuilding of our country. Instead of dispersing our energies in such petty considerations, it will be very good for all Chadian people to belong to a single melting-pot where all various shades of thought are expressed. This melting-pot is the UNIR. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak on Palestinian State, U.S. Decision

NC3008123788 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has affirmed Egypt will agree with whatever the PLO decides with regard to the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state so long as the PLO's decision is based on wisdom and accurate calculations that serve the cause.

In statements to reporters today, President Mubarak said the issue of the independent Palestinian state is still under consideration. He added that he did not wish to comment now before the issue crystallizes.

On the U.S. decision to refrain from closing down the PLO office in the United States, President Mubarak remarked it is a good decision.

Asked about a newspaper report his excellency will make a European tour shortly, President Mubarak declared that nothing specific has been decided in this respect, as there must be reasons to carry out such a foreign tour. He announced he has received an invitation to visit Tunisia but said that no date has been set yet.

President Mubarak also stated that the amir of Qatar will visit Egypt at the end of the year. He noted that he had also extended an invitation to YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to visit Egypt. He added, however, that the date of the visit has not been arranged.

Regarding the difficulties facing the peace negotiations on ending the Gulf war, President Mubarak said he hopes reason will prevail so that a comprehensive peace may be attained. He remarked that the negotiations are going on, and it is to be expected that obstacles will be encountered in talks that are taking place after a long and destructive war lasting for 8 years.

U.S. Decision on UN PLO Office Praised

NC3108082488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH praises the U.S. Justice Department's decision not to appeal against a federal court's ruling preventing the closure of the PLO mission at the United Nations. In an editorial today, the paper notes that UN circles have received this decision with satisfaction, viewing it as a good step toward expected changes in the views of the U.S. Administration on the PLO and in its insistence on describing it as a terrorist organization.

The paper adds that the decision is a U.S. Government response to the UN desire to keep the PLO within the international community in New York as an observer until a Palestinian state is proclaimed and its membership becomes active.

The paper urges the United States to take other similar steps. It particularly calls on it to use its influence to persuade the Israeli Government to accept a just and comprehensive settlement of the bitter conflict in the Middle East. The paper remarks that current international developments permit the actual implementation of a comprehensive solution to this issue.

Police, Citizens Clash Outside Prison

JN3108100088 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 29 Aug 88 p 1

[By Majdi Hilmi]

[Text] Last Thursday [25 August] a fierce battle took place between central security troops and families of the political detainees at the Abu Za'bal prison, where the prison's administration had banned families from visiting their detained sons. Central security soldiers attacked and beat children and women with electric clubs. The families shouted slogans condemning the oppressive measures employed by the interior ministry against them.

Vehicles of the central security and special forces rushed to surround the demonstrations staged by the detainees' families. The troops fired tear gas canisters and citizens hurled stones at the security forces. A large number of children and women were injured, and the security forces arrested a large number of citizens.

Prison officers explained their refusal to allow families to visit was on orders from Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr, in which he banned visits for 15 days.

Yesterday, Attorney Muntasir al-Zayyat submitted a statement to Jamal Shuman, the public prosecuter, asking him to investigate the attack against citizens and to intervene to stop the interior minister's order banning visits to detainees in Abu Za'bal prison and to political detainees in Turah prison.

Energy Talks With Jordan Held in Cairo

NC3008132488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Electricity Minister Eng Mahir Abazah has stated that within 7 years the electric networks of Arab countries could be linked with each other, as well as with the unified European grid. Eng Abazah added that the project to implement linking the electric networks of Egypt and Jordan will start early next year, after the necessary technical studies had been completed.

The minister's remarks came during an official round of talks at the Electricity Ministry attended by Jordanian Energy Minister Dr Hisham al-Khatib and Dr Jamal al-Sayyid, Egyptian minister of state for war production. Eng Abazah affirmed the Egyptian expertise and capabilities in the field of manufacturing electric equipment and hardware needed for linking the electric grids of the two countries will be made available to carry out the project. Jordanian labor will also be given the opportunity to train in Egypt, Abazah noted.

The talks also covered the steps needed to link the electric networks of the Arab states. It was agreed in this respect to conduct a comprehensive survey of the Arab

manufacturing capabilities in the field of electricity and energy so as to prepare an integrated Arab industrialization plan. The two sides agreed to coordinate their efforts at international conferences and within specialized agencies to unify their views in general.

Both countries also agreed to cooperate in the field of new and renewable energy resources, stressing the need to find alternative energy resources. They also exchanged views on the joint manufacturing of equipment and accessories needed for the power plants and electric grids.

The Jordanian energy minister touched on the electricity and energy sectors in Jordan, noting that the energy establishments there are run economically and generate good annual income for the government, which uses these funds to finance new energy projects. [passage omitted]

Libya

Final Session of 'Trial' Condemns U.S. Action

LD3108014688 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The anti-imperialist international tribunal continued its work for the third successive day. It is holding its trial in Tripoli to try the U.S. Administration and its leader Reagan for the aggressive actions against the Libyan people. It held its final session in order to pass judgment on the lawsuit brought by the Libyan people against the U.S. Administration and its leader Reagan.

The president of the court first pointed out that the tribunal had finished consideration of the file of the lawsuit presented to it, hearing witnesses and reviewing the arguments presented to it by the representatives of the prosecution for the Libyan Arab people against the U.S. President and his administration. He also noted they had listened to the defense and reviewed all the proof, which it completed in depth during its visit to the traces of the U.S. terrorist aggression, which included strafing the house of the brother leader and his family.

The tribunal's judgment was unanimous and was signed by the members of the tribunal, lawyers, the secretary, and the defense lawyer, following consultations. After hearing the methods of the imperialist terrorist provocations against the peaceable Libyan Arab people who move forward every day, making life and progress on their soil, thanks to the Great Al-Fatih Revolution—the international revolution that defends freedom and supports the oppressed in striving to achieve it—and after reviewing the U.S. terrorist methods against the U.S. terrorist administration against the Libyan Arab people, it issued its judgment.

The tribunal finding condemned the failed U.S. barbaric aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah and all the terrorist practicess against the Libyan Arab people and ordered just compensation to the Libyan Arab people for the damage in men and capital it caused it, confirming the Libyan Arab people's better claim to and sovereignty over the Gulf of Sidra. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Briefs

Press Agency Begins Transmissions

Dakar 27 Aug (MAP)—The MAURITANIAN PRESS AGENCY last Wednesday began for the first time transmitting its news bulletins abroad. This achievement came as a result of cooperation between the [Moroccan] National Corporation for Cable and Telecommunications and the Mauritanian agency and also thanks to efforts exerted by the Mauritanian Government. [Text] [*LD2808025288 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1620 GMT 27 Aug 88*]

Sudan

Reportage on Relief Aid in Wake of Floods

Ten Relief Planes Arrive

JN3008113988 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 30 (SUNA)—Ten planes loaded with relief items had arrived in Khartoum airport yesterday.

The ten planes are carrying food supplies from Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Arab Yemen, Iraq and Kuwait.

This brings the number of relief planes that arrived here since Sudan urged the international community for urgent assistance to 317.

Canada To Give $4 Million

JN3008133688 Khartoum SUNA in English 1032 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum Aug 30 (SUNA)—The Canadian Government has agreed to provide Sudan with an additional four million Canadian dollars to be used for the purchase of wheat from there.

The additional four million brings the total of the Canadian Aid to Sudan for current year to nine million Canadian dollars.

The wheat is expected to arrive to the country by the end of next September.

Meanwhile Finance Minister Dr.'Umar Nur al-Da'im met here yesterday with the Canadian official responsible for aid, who is currently visiting the country and briefed him on Sudan's needs.

Kuwaiti Relief Detailed

JN3008134088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1055 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 30, (SUNA)—The Kuwaiti Government will establish an airlift from Kuwait to Khartoum and a direct airbridge from Kuwait to Dongla (capital of the Shamaliyah Province) to carry relief items to those affected by and rains [as received] in the Sudan. This came after the meeting held here yesterday between amir of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Muhammad 'Uthman al- Mirghani, who is on visit to Kuwait, currently, leading a high level delegation from the "DUP".

The meeting also discussed the recent developments in Sudan and in the Gulf area.

The meeting has reviewed the current efforts for solving the problem. Government expressed readiness to assist in this regard.

Al-Mirghani described his talks with the Kuwaiti amir as successful and that their points of view were "completely identical" on all issues which have been discussed.

On the other hand, the leader of the "DUP" met yesterday with the Kuwaiti premier, Shaykh 'Abdullah al-Sabah, and discussed issues of mutual concern.

The Kuwaiti premier directed his ministers to discuss with their Sudanese counterparts, accompanying Al-Mirghani, the implementation of the projects he reviewed with Al-Mirghani's meetings each in his respective field.

Arab Fund To Provide Aid

JN3008133188 Khartoum SUNA in English 1105 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 30, (SUNA)—The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development has provided Sudan with a grant amounting to 180 million dollars, member of the Arab Fund Khodali Abu Bakr announced today.

The grant comes within the framework of the Arab Fund loan for establishing 71 projects aim at removing the effects of disaster caused by rain and flood.

On the other hand, a meeting comprising the heads of Arab funds in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi will be held shortly to review the contribution of the funds in boosting the infrastructure of production sector in Sudan. Minister of Defence 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil had returned last Sudan from Saudi Arabia where he concluded successful talks with Saudi officials on ways of helping Sudan obtain assistance from the Gulf countries.

Arab Gulf Aid Reviewed

JN3008113788 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 30, (SUNA)—A number of Arab Gulf countries are currently studying ways of rebuilding Sudan's infrastructure devastated by rain and floods, the bi-weekly "AL-DA'WAH" reported today.

The Arab Gulf countries will provide Sudan with financial assistance and the equipment, the daily added.

A ministerial committee, headed by Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is currently laying down a programme in light of the available infromation on the effect of rain and floods, the paper said, adding that Sudan will submit the programme to the friendly countries.

The losses were primarily estimated at about three billion Sudanese pounds, the paper said.

No Official Reports on Northern Floods Available

JN3008133488 Khartoum SUNA in English 1100 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 30, (SUNA)—No official statistics or assessment of the damages caused by flooding in the Northern Region has yet been made, reports by SUDAN NEWS AGENCY from the areas affected said today.

The reports say this was due to the involvement of the people for holding back the floods.

One report says the material damage might be "more than imagined".

It went on to add that some area which were not covered even during the 1946 historic flooding, are now flooded with the waters of the Nile. To cross bank to the other has become a dangerous task, the report said.

The reports shows the possibility of diseases diffusion in the region when the river returns to its old path leaving thousands of kilometers in which belharzia, typhoid and other diseases might spread.

The citizens living in these islands refuse to quit for safer places, the report said. The report indicate there will be a real danger if the river increase or maintain its current level.

However it pinpoints that the thousands of feddans covered with alluviam deposits will be a promising agricultural lands when the river flood drops and if the government succeeds in availing agricultural imput for the region.

Al-Mirghani on Ethiopia, Rebels, Arab Aid

NC3108095088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0851 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani has praised the assistance that President Husni Mubarak gave Sudan to enable it to confront the disastrous torrential rains and floods. He announced that the president's attitude emphasizes the historical truth of the profound ties between Egypt and Sudan.

In an interview with the Egyptian magazine AKHIR SA'AH, published today, he said: We also appreciate the stands of the other Arab countries in this regard, particularly those of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and the leaders of the Gulf states and the Arab world.

On another issue, Ahmad al-Mirghani described President Mubarak's mediation between Sudan and Ethiopia as positive and noted that as a result normal relations were restored between Sudan and Ethiopia.

Asked how much the improvement of Sudanese-Ethiopian relations has contributed to resolving the crisis of southern Sudan, the Sudanese state council chairman said: We believe that if the rebel movement is serious about seeking peace, it must prove it by halting raids on cities and villages and killing and robbing innocent people. It must respond to peace calls. He noted that Sudan always confronts every attempt to harm its national unity, soil, or people.

He expressed the view that the convening of the proposed constitutional conference in Sudan is bound to make the attainment of a suitable solution possible, provided all parties concerned come to the conference with open minds and hearts and the desire to resolve the crisis of the South.

On the future of Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Al-Mirghani said that the Brotherhood Charter between the two countries is a step toward the desired aim of achieving a Nile Valley union. He stressed the importance of supporting the charter to the utmost through the implementation of the joint projects agreed upon by the two countries.

Commenting on the forthcoming Arab conference in Riyadh, Al-Mirghani said that after the restoration of Arab ties with Egypt, he hopes that the course of Arab solidarity will be crowned by Egypt's return to the Arab League. Egypt is the big sister and there is a need for its influence and the stands of President Husni Mubarak both at the Arab League and the Riyadh summit, he stated.

Al-Mirghani said in conclusion that it is certain that the standing of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its monarch King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz will endow the expected summit conference in Riyadh with great importance.

TV Director General Fired in 'Public Interest'

JN3008114888 Khartoum SUNA in English 1055 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 30, (SUNA)—Culture and Information Minister 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad Hasan has decreed the relief of seven TV leading figures from their posts for public interest.

The seven including the TV director general the flamboyant Hamdi Badir al-Din had earlier been sent in an open leave prior to their relief.

No reason was given however as to the causes behind their firing. A new acting director general Sayyid Hadid al-Siraj was appointed.

Western Sahara

Morocco, Polisario Respond to Peace Plan

LD3008112688 Kuwait KUNA in English 1034 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug 30 (KUNA)—Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali Tuesday delivered his country's response to United Nations proposals on the Western Sahara conflict.

The minister gave Morocco's answer in a meeting here with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Later Bachir Mustapha, the foreign affairs representative of the Polisario, which has (?been fighting) Morocco for the past 12 years over the sovereignty of the area, also gave the organization's response to the August 11 proposals.

On leaving the meeting Filali told journalists that the proposals had been subjected to "a profound study" by Morocco.

"I would say that there is an accord in principle to collaborate with the secretary-general in the implementation of his proposals", he said.

Morocco was not waiting for the secretary-general's proposals on the stages of a referendum, he added, without elaborating.

Such a referendum could be held in "the fairly near future", he said.

The proposals, which have not been officially released, call for a ceasefire then a referendum in the region to decide its future.

Morocco took over the administration of Spain's colony of Spanish Sahara in 1975. Polisario wants to establish an independent state in the area.

The last internationally-recognised referendum in the Western Sahara was organised by the Spanish in 1974, and Madrid's foreign minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez is next month due to meet [Perez] de Cuellar for discussions on the Sahara dispute.

Paris Notes 'Positive Response' to Peace Plan

LD3008115288 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Yet another success for United Nations Secretary General Perez de Cuellar: After succeeding in bringing together Iranians and Iraqis in the same room in Geneva to begin a peace process with long negotiations, another conflict will perhaps be about to end—that of the Western Sahara, a territory over which Morocco and the Polisario front have been in dispute for the last 13 years. In Geneva this morning the peace plan drawn up by Perez de Cuellar received the agreement in principle of Morocco and the Polisario Front. Mireille Lemaresquier in Geneva [Lemaresquier] The positive response given to the secretary general this morning by the Moroccan foreign minister and by the Polisario chief is the green light for the plan proposed by the United Nations on 11 August, a two-point plan: Firstly, the cease-fire, and secondly a referendum on self-determination for these territories, which are half the size of France.

The problem is the new census—the last one was taken by the Spanish in 1974—150,000 inhabitants in the Western Sahara. In order to begin all the peace processes two basic questions have still to be settled: the first is the presence of Moroccan troops on the territory—200,000 soldiers of Hassan II, according to the Polisario, and a percentage would therefore be withdrawn but this is still to be determined; the second point is the administration, which today is Moroccan. During the preparations for the referendum, the OAU and the United Nations would have to take over. If peace can emerge from the sands of the Sahara today, it is also because communications between Rabat and Algiers, a veritable sanctuary for the Polisario, are now open again.

Polisario Gives Conditional Approval for Plan

LD3008131488 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Western Sahara—The replies of the two parties concerned, Morocco and the Polisario Front, to the United Nations Secretary General's peace plan are known: Morocco has agreed in principle; the Polisario Front accepts the plan subject to certain conditions—but we do not know what conditions yet. Here is reporter [name indistinct]:

[Reporter] The United Nations peace plan, or rather the plan of the United Nations secretary general, provides for the implementation of a cease-fire and the holding of a self-determination referendum by the population of the Western Sahara.

Morocco's Filali, after giving Morocco's official reply to the United Nations secretary general this morning, specified that Rabat is ready to cooperate with the secretary general and to maintain constant contacts with him. Mr Filali also expressed the view that the referendum could be carried out within a relatively short period of time.

With regard to drawing up electoral lists for this referendum, Mr Filali reiterated that Morocco wanted the last census carried out by Spain in 1974 to be applied.

The Saharan response, given by Mr Bachir Musatapha Sayed, was yes, but subject to certain conditions. He did not specify what kind, but he did utter this brief comment: With the reply of the Polisario and that of Morocco, the Western Saharan conflict enters into a new phase in which the two sides' problems must be ironed out.

Polisario Leader Comments

LD3008225988 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In an interview with APS, Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz said the Polisario Front reiterated the spirit of cooperation with the UN and OAU organizations for the sake of peace or in support of efforts made by any other side to guarantee the achievement of a peaceful and just solution in the Western Sahara.

Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz also stressed Polisario's adherence to a number of fundamental elements that guarantee a solution, foremost of which are direct negotiations between the two sides involved in the conflict, the establishment of a neutral international administration to replace the Moroccan administration, the withdrawal of the Moroccan settlers, and giving the OAU a wide and more effective role.

Kuwait

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives With Message for Amir

JN3008084488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0742 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Aug (INA)—RCC member and First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother His Highness Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, arrived here today on a visit to Kuwait.

The Iraqi envoy is carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother his highness the amir of Kuwait on developments of the Iraq-Iran war, Iraq's adherence to comprehensive and lasting peace, developed bilateral relations, and developments in the Arab arena.

The Iraqi envoy was received at the airport by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and a number of officials.

Sudanese Official Arrives for Talks on Relations

LD2808214288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1909 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 28 (KUNA)—Leader of the Sudanese Democratic Union Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani arrived here Sunday evening on an official visit in response to an invitation by H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad.

Al-Mirghani, who was received by the minister of awqaf religious affairs Khalid al-Jasir, told reporters that his visit will focus on bilateral relations between his country and Kuwait. He praised the strong Sudanese-Kuwaiti relations and said they have been developing consistently especially in economic development fields.

He said he is glad to visit Kuwait for the first time and the war between Iran and Iraq has come to a halt. Sudan "has been since the beginning supportive of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Arab countries against Iranian aggression," he asserted.

"We have denounced the Iranian aggression on Kuwait," stressed Al-Mirghani, adding that "Iraq's steadfastness, in addition to the rest of the Gulf countries, has led to the defeat of Iran and its acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598."

"Without Iraq's military victories and the unity of the Arab countries, peace would never have been reached and the war would have been still going on," the Sudanese leader emphasized.

On the situation in his country which is facing unusual destructive floods, he said that many towns and villages have been destroyed along the Nile River. He expressed hope that the aid flowing into Sudan from Arab and foreign countries would continue until the danger of the floods diminishes (?and) the problem is overcome. The floods began spilling into towns and villages on the sixth of this month and have caused tremendous damages and deaths of tens of people in addition to making thousands of Sudanese homeless.

Al-Mirghani heads a high ranking official delegation including member of the Supreme Council Muhammad al-Hasan, the Minister of Religious Affairs 'Abd al-Malik al-Ja'li and the State Minister for Works Omar Haidar [name as received].

OPEC Secretary General Begins Regional Tour

LD2608221188 Kuwait KUNA in English 1944 GMT 26 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 26 (KUNA)—OPEC's Secretary General Dr Subroto arrived here Friday, within a tour which will include also Iraq and Iran.

He was received upon arrival by board member of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and President of the Kuwait Oil Company 'Abd al-Malik al-Gharabali and Indonesia's ambassador to Kuwait.

In an arrival statement to reporters, Dr Subroto said that his tour aims at finding remedies for many problems which the organisation confronts, spearheaded by re-enlisting Iraq in the quotas distribution system. The OPEC secretary general had made a similar tour this month of Latin American member states, which included Ecuador and Venezuela.

He said that in the current circumstances, both Iraq and Iran should be given the same production quota of 2.3 million barrels per day [bpd].

Subroto noted that upon meeting with the Iraqi oil minister, following his visit to Kuwait, he will discuss Iraq's re-enlistment in the quota system and then the Iraqi production quota itself. The OPEC ranking official denied that he received any official information that Iran rejects the idea of having the same quota as Iraq. Iran's quota is 2.3 million bpd. Nearly two years ago, Iraq refused to be part of the quota system, in protest of having a far lesser quota than Iran. Iraq currently produces 2.7 million bpd.

Dr Subroto described his visits to Baghdad and Tehran as "an exploration trip to know the stances of the two countries toward putting their quotas at a specific level." He did not rule out, in case both countries come to terms on this issue, that the quota of both states could surpass the 2.3 million bpd rate. Subroto admitted that some OPEC members have violated the organisation's production ceiling of 15.06 million bpd, but declined to either specify the amount of the violation nor the non-abiding countries.

Dr Subroto is due to meet with Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adbi Saturday.

Iran 'Trying To Wear Out' Iraq in Talks

LD3108085288 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 31 (KUNA)—A local daily Wednesday accused Iran of trying to put stumbling blocks to delay the Geneva talks with its war foe, Iraq, affirming that Tehran will not hesitate in pushing the negotiations into trouble now that the war is over and U.N. observers have deployed along the war fronts.

Daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, in a front-page editorial, noted that the thorniest problem at the talks relates to their common borders at the Shatt al'Arab waterway, indicating that Iran uses this point to prolong the negotiations.

The paper said the eight-year-old war has created numerous problems, which cannot be resolved in a day or two, adding that the Iranians, who are still justifying their acceptance of Resolution 598, seem to be trying to wear out the Iraqi negotiating team.

"The war phase has been terminated once and for all and there is no talk of a relapse in implementing the ceasefire resolution or getting back to any military activity on land or in the air, but that does not mean that everything is over and scores have been settled and bills have been paid," it concluded.

Saudi Arabia

Iraq's Ramadan Delivers Message to King Fahd

LD3008155588 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1520 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 30 Aug (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al'Aziz Al Sa'ud—may God protect him—custodian of the two holy mosques, received at his royal court office His Excellency Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and first deputy prime minister of Iraq, and the accompanying delegation who conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques a message from his brother His Excellency Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense, aviation and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; His Royal Highness Prince Bandar ibn Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to the United States; His Excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, minister of information; and 'Abd al-Wahab Muhammad al-Sabbagh, Iraqi ambassador to the Kingdom.

The Revolutionary Command Council member and Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan and his accompanying delegation arrived in Jeddah this morning. [passage omitted]

INA on Visit

JN3008195588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Jeddah, 30 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, special envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, RCC member, and first deputy prime minister, has conveyed a message from his excellency the president to his brother, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The message was conveyed during a meeting between King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Taha Yasin Ramadan in Jeddah today.

The message contained the greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, the pride of the Iraqi leadership and people in the fraternal stands of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the reiteration of Iraq's determination to support relations with Saudi Arabia in all spheres.

During the meeting, the special envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn briefed His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on the latest developments of the Iraq-Iran war. The envoy also affirmed the firmness of the Iraqi stance stipulating that peace must be durable and comprehensive, the cease-fire must be observed on land, at sea, and in the air, and all agreements must be written down and duly documented.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; His Royal Highness Prince Bandar ibn Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi ambassador in Washington; 'Ali al-Sha'ir, information minister; and Iraqi ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon. Upon arrival at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport, Ramadan was welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin, acting Mecca governor; Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, state minister; 'Ali al-Sha'ir, information minister; the Iraqi ambassador to Saudi Arabia; and a number of high-ranking Saudi officials.

Ramadan Departs

LD3008222888 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1838 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 30 Aug (SPA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council Member and first deputy prime minister of Iraq, left Jeddah this evening after a short visit to the Kingdom during which he met King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. He delivered a message from his brother, His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, to King Fahd. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Minister Expresses Thanks for Aid

JN3008160688 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 28 Aug 88 pp 1, 17

[By 'Uthman Sayyid Ahmad]

[Excerpts] Sudanese Defense Minister Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil has expressed sincerest thanks and appreciation to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques; his highness the crown prince; his highness the second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and general inspector; all royal family members; and the Saudi people for their profound brotherly sentiments and great support for their brothers in Sudan in the disaster that befell them as a result of the destructive rains and floods.

In an exclusive statement to AL-YAWM, he said: I arrived in Jeddah yesterday with a message to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques from his brother Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi conveying the thanks and appreciation of Sudan—government and people—for the swift response of the Kingdom under King Fahd to rescue Sudan. [passage omitted]

On the current position of the Sudanese Army in military operations in Southern Sudan, the defense minister said the Army is in an excellent position in all areas of military operations against the Garang-led rebels in Southern Sudan. He added that the position of the Sudanese Armed Forces is much better than it was 3 months ago in particular and years ago in general. Neither Torit nor any other city John Garang's radio was threatening to occupy has fallen.

He indicated Sudan seeks to resolve the rebellion peacefully through negiotiations to establish a durable peace. He said the government sent a comprehensive peace initiative to Garang, who did not respond to it through official channels. He said some of Garang's responses were heard over the news media, but the official response has not been received yet.

He said the Sudanese National Peace Council set up a number of committees and secretariats to prepare for a peaceful solution and convene a constitutional conference until a formula of coexistence—taking into consideration the contradictions inherited by the Sudanese people since independence—is reached. He said this must take place only through dialogue, not war. He said that at the same time, the Sudanese Armed Forces must maintain the safety and security of the country and safeguard the unity of the Sudanese people and their territory.

The Sudanese defense minister indicated that there is an integrated 4-year plan to modernize the Sudanese Army. He said to achieve this, Sudan will deal with all blocs in the world, without being confined to any particular one.

On current peace efforts with Ethiopia, the Sudanese defense minister said that a number of ministrial and technical commitees for the two countries held meetings, the latest of which was that of the Sudanese technical committee and its Ethiopian counterpart in Addis Ababa 12 days ago. He said the two committees discussed how to bolster relations and solve unresolved problems between the two countries.

He said: After this meeting, the Ethiopian foreign minister visited Khartoum and met with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and me. We also returned to Ethiopia three aircraft with which three Ethiopian military personnel defected and requested asylum in Sudan. He said that all these signs indicate that positive steps are being observed by the two neighboring countries.

Answering a question on the diplomatic tension some time ago between Sudan and Kenya because of the presence of information and military offices for John Garang in Nairobi, the Sudanese defense minister said: We do not interfere in Kenya's internal affairs. From this premise, we deal with this matter through diplomatic institutions and channels. We hope to reach an agreement over this issue soon. [passage omitted]

Pakistani Shi'ite Group Released From Jail

LD2908100488 Tehran IRNA in English 0801 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 29, IRNA—Six members of the Pakistani Shi'ite group 'The Movement for Execution of Jaafari Fiqh' arrested in Saudi Arabia for their participation in the 'Deliverance From Pagans' rally last month during Hajj pilgrimage ceremonies have been freed, it was announced here Sunday.

Deputy of the movement Fazil Musavi and five other prominent members of the group along with hundreds of other pilgrims were arrested at Jeddah Airport after they had performed the Hajj rituals. Those freed are in the custody of the Pakistani Government for investigation and are expected to be relased soon.

The release of the group came after a Pakistani Foreign Ministry official was dispatched to the Saudi capital to solve the issue.

The envoy was sent after supporters of the movement staged protest demonstrations in various Pakistani cities and in front of the Saudi Embassy here calling for the release of those arrested by the Saudi police. Large numbers of the protestors have reportedly been arrested. Those arrested have revealed that hundreds of pilgrims from Pakistan, Kuwait, Turkey and other countries still remain in Saudi jails.

The Saudi Government has reportedly expelled a large number of Pakistani workers from the country.

Further Reportage on Talks With Iran in Geneva

Separate Talks Session Ends

JN3008211688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2108 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 30 Aug (INA)—Another round of separate talks on the technical level between UN experts and members of the Iraqi and Iranian delegations was concluded at the Palais des Nations at midnight.

The INA team said the session ended at 2145 Geneva local time, 2345 Baghdad local time. The session lasted a number of hours.

UN 'Experts' Resume Talks

JN3108131288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1236 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 31 Aug (INA)—It has been announced here that UN experts this morning resumed separate consultations with experts from the Iraqi and Iranian delegations.

Francois Giuliani, official spokesman for the UN secretary general, said in a statement this afternoon that the experts are holding continuous meetings. He indicated that the UN secretary general will today or tomrrow name his personal representative to sponsor the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations.

Source on Iranian Cease-Fire Violations

JN3008142688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] The Iranian forces have continued to violate the cease-fire resolution that went into effect on 20 August, committing new violations in various sectors on the front for the 9th consecutive day.

A responsible source told INA that the UN observers have been notified of these violations, which took place during the period extending from 0600 on 28 August to 0600 local time, 0200 GMT time, on 29 August.

The responsible source said that in the I Special Army Corps sector, an enemy Landrover vehicle carrying five personnel equipped with binoculars approached our forces there and maintained a distance of 500 meters from them at 0455. Our forces forced those approaching to flee to areas deep inside Iranian territory. The observers group was notified of this violation.

The source added: In the III Army Corps sector, the enemy hoisted two Iranian flags in front of our troops at 0710 [0310 GMT] on 28 August. It also hoisted two other flags on its embankment at 0930 on the same day and erected barbed wire in front of these areas. The enemy mounted a single-barreled machinegun to protect the two points on the enemy embankment. At 0430 on the same day, an enemy group—about 30 personnel—approached our forces. They retreated to the rear after they were warned by our forces.

Another enemy group—about 100 personnel—hoisted four [Iranian] flags, erected barbed wire, and laid mines in front of our troops in the aforementioned sector. At 0455, the enemy hoisted three other flags and established a point outside the wire obstacles.

The source went on to say that Iraqi forces have taken the necessary measures to prevent Iranians from crossing the area and the observers group has been notified of these violations. He confirmed that the group documented these violations.

The source continued: In the V Army Corps sector, the enemy forces fired one GS rifle round in the direction of our troops in the Hajj 'Umran area. The observers group was notified of this violation, to which our forces made no reply. The observers group documented the Iranian violation.

The source said: In the VII Army Corps sector, at 0605 on 28 August, one enemy boat carrying five personnel was seen leaving the mouth of the Karun River heading northward. The passengers on the boat were warned by our forces, and this forced them to return to their point of departure. The observers group, who were notified, documented this violation.

UN Plane With Equipment for Observers Arrives

JN3008150788 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 30, INA—A U.N. private plane, carrying special technical equipment for the international observers group operating along the Iraq-Iran borders for implementing Security Council Resolution No 598 arrived here this afternoon.

'Aziz Receives Swiss Minister, Egyptian Envoy

JN2708111388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1052 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 27 Aug (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received at his residence in Geneva today Edouard Brunner, Swiss minister of state for foreign affairs. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and the regional situation.

Tariq 'Aziz also received Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent representative at the UN European Headquarters in Geneva. They discussed, during the meeting, fraternal bilateral relations, regional developments, and issues of common interest.

Tariq 'Aziz is leading the Iraqi delegation to the direct talks with Iran, which began on Thursday.

'Aziz Receives 'Arafat, Kuwaiti Envoy in Geneva

JN2808064088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, 28 Aug (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, visited PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at his residence in Geneva last night.

During the 90 minute meeting, the two sides discussed implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 following the enforcement of the cease-fire, developments of the Palestinian cause, and the popular uprising in occupied Arab territories.

Tariq 'Aziz heads the Iraqi delegation to the direct negotiations with Iran which started at the Palace of Nations in Geneva on Thursday.

Tariq 'Aziz also received Shaykh Salim Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti permanent representative to the UN European headquarters in Geneva, at his residence last night. The two sides discussed matters dealing with implementation of Resolution 598, and fraternal relations between Iraq and Kuwait.

Ramadan on Visits to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait

JN3108082588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member, first deputy prime minister, and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, returned to Baghdad last night following a 1-day visit to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

In a statement to INA, Ramadan said that he conveyed two messages from President Saddam Husayn to his brothers Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, amir of fraternal Kuwait; and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. He added that the messages deal with developments of the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran and with the affirmation of Iraq's firm stands on a cease-fire observed on land, at sea, and in the air; on freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz; and on the immediate clearing of the Shatt al-'Arab by the United Nations as a serious beginning to implement other clauses of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and test the Iranian side's sincerity and good intentions toward achieving a lasting and comprehensive peace.

Ramadan said that His Highness Kuwaiti Amir and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz reiterated fraternal Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian firm stands on supporting a lasting and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran in order to achieve security and stability in the Arab Gulf region. He added that they also stressed the need to continue joint action to promote developed relations between both countries and Iraq and to serve the Arab nation's solidarity and strength.

He added that the Kuwaiti amir and Saudi king stressed that the victories achieved by Iraq are comprehensive political and military victories that constitute a beginning of a strong Arab awakening. He said that they also asserted that these victories paved the way for peace and forced the hostile, expansionist Iranian regime to relinquish its hostile policy after it reaped humiliation, failure, and ignominy at the hands of the valiant Iraqi Forces.

Finance Minister Returns From Visit to Turkey

JN3008100588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—Finance Minister Hikmat 'Umar Mukhaylif returned here last night following a visit of several days to Turkey during which he attended the opening of the Izmir International Fair.

It is noteworthy that Iraq is participating in the fair with a stand comprising various industrial products reflecting Iraq's industrial progress.

Turkish Under Secretary Conveys Message From Ozal

JN3008101588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0814 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received here last night a verbal message from Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal on bilateral relations and means to bolster them.

The message was conveyed by Nuzhet Kandemir, Turkish Foreign Ministry under secretary, when he was received by Taha Yasin Ramadan. The Turkish official arrived in Baghdad last night on a brief visit to Iraq.

Leaves After 2-Day Visit

JN3008152788 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Bagdhad, Aug. 30, INA—Turkish Foreign Undersecretary Mr. Nuzhet Kandemir left here this afternoon concluding a two-day visit to Iraq.

During his visit, the Turkish minister delivered a message to member of the Revolution Command Council and Iraq's First Deputy Premier Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan from Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal on bilateral relations and means of developing them.

Paper Calls for 'New Agreement' With Iran

JN2908075288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0605 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—AL-THAWRAH says that Iran is called upon to work honestly in order to reach a new agreement based on respect for Iraq's full sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab. The newspaper adds

that this right does not include any encroachment on the Iranian territory and sovereignty as Iraq's right to the Shatt al-'Arab is a firm historical right throughout the decades of history.

Iraq has the right to legitimate sovereignty over its only artery connecting it to the outside world and its only outlet to the Arabian Gulf. AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, affirms in today's editorial that Iranian rulers should abandon the policy of covetousness, expansion, and encroachment; accept the facts of history and geography; and stop seeking gains through playing with agreements even when they are defeated.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Iranian rulers have torn up the Algeria agreement through words, deeds, and aggression and created a new situation through their aggressive stands. This is how things stand at the table of direct negotiations where the true stand on a just, permanent, and honorable peace is being tested.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that Iraq abrogated the Algeria agreement when the Iranian rulers resorted to their criminal force, exposed their ambitions, tore up this agreement, and ignored its most important articles, that is, the non-interference in internal affairs and the withdrawal of Iraqi territories that were under Iranian occupation during the Shah's rule.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Iraq was and still is in a position to defend its rights, sovereignty, and legitimate interests. Iraq is devoting all its strength to seize its rights and safeguard its interests. Iraq has no ambitions on any inch of Iranian territory. The paper says that Iraqi Forces returned to the international border after they accomplished their mission and destroyed the aggression.

AL-THAWRAH says: The peace opportunity given by Iraq when it accepted the cease-fire before the direct negotiations paves the way for a comprehensive, just, lasting, and honorable peace as well as for Iranian-Iraqi relations based on respect, non-interference, and non-encroachment.

The newspaper says: If the Iranian rulers are earnestly seeking peace they now have this opportunity. They should act in light of past lessons in the service of peace and Iraq's inalienable historical rights. Procrastination and statements on mobilization and military threats to use force are not geared toward implementation of Resolution No 598. This, however, will add fuel to the fire of war which they ignited and it has not been extinguished yet.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Iraq did not submit to threats nor did it fear aggression. Iraq can confront any aggressive act. The paper says: The Iranian regime is facing a test—either it becomes realistic and abandons ambitions and aggression or shoulders full responsibility for the consequences. The paper affirms that Iraq only wants its inalienable historical rights and only seeks a just, permanent, comprehensive, and honorable peace.

Shatt al-'Arab Called 'Sovereign Iraqi Waterway'

JN2908084388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has advised the Tehran rulers to abandon their ambitions in the Shatt al-'Arab because it is a sovereign Iraqi waterway. The paper says: Any Iranian attempt to encroach on Iraq's full sovereignty over this waterway will face complete, decisive rejection. In today's editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that Iraq will never relinquish its complete sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab, particularly since it is its only outlet to the Arabian Gulf and its lifeline to the outside world.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The Tehran rulers must completely forget the 1975 agreement and accept to work with Iraq to reach a new agreement that could be a solid basis for a comprehensive, lasting, and honorable peace. AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: The Tehran rulers should understand that entering peace talks with a spirit of blackmailing and searching for illegitimate regional gains does not serve the peace process.

AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that the time when Iran was allowed to follow the policy of gradual possession [of Arab land] and achieving regional gains at the expense of others, has gone forever. The Iraqi newspaper urges the international community to monitor the behavior of the Tehran rulers because it shows their intentions to obstruct the negotiations and peace march. The paper says: Respecting others' rights, non-interference in internal affairs, and establishing joint relations on just and legitimate rights guarantee the establishment of comprehensive and lasting peace, security, and stability.

Briefs

Outgoing Tunisian Ambassador

Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Tunisian Ambassador in Baghdad Hachemi Ouanes on the occasion of the end of his tenure. The developing relations between the two brotherly countries were discussed during the meeting. A common desire to promote cooperation between the two countries in all fields to serve the interests of the Arab nation was stressed. [Text] [*JN2908192988 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Aug 88*]

Rabin on 'Increased' Soviet Presence in Syria

TA3008181788 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Knesset correspondent Eli Nisan on 30 August in the Knesset; in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles—videorecorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Nisan] Sir, what is your reaction to the increased Soviet presence in Syria, particularly in the port of Tartus?

[Rabin] The Syrians allow the Soviet Union to maintain a presence in their country through the presence of advisors. They permit the Soviets to use Syrian military installations, be they ports, airports, or other installations on which I will not elaborate. This is yet another phase in Soviet-Syrian cooperation.

[Nisan] The Soviets are about to supply advanced Sukhoi aircraft to the Syrians. Will this alter the strategic situation in the area?

[Rabin] We believe a new arms deal was signed between the Soviet Union and Syria at the beginning of 1988. The deal includes the supply of tanks and surface-to-surface missiles—particularly SS-21's—increasing the number of existing surface-to-air missiles, the supply of MiG-29's, and possibly the supply of other advanced aircraft.

Of course, all this is still regarded in the context of a qualitative build-up which does not denote a significant strategic change in the balance of power between Syria and Israel.

Novik Interviewed on Meeting With Tarasov

TA3008073788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Telephone interview with Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, by Mikha Friedman and Ilana Dayan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, returned yesterday from Paris after holding a meeting with Gennadiy Tarasov, a senior Soviet Foreign Ministry official. Novik and Tarasov meet occasionally to discuss bilateral issues. Good morning, Mr Novik.

[Novik] Good morning.

[Friedman] How many meetings have you held with your Soviet colleague so far?

[Novik] Between five to seven meetings over the last 1 and ½ years.

[Friedman] Today, when we have a consular delegation in Moscow and they have one in Jerusalem, why should the foreign minister's political adviser continue to be the channel for messages and information?

[Novik] This is not my own choice. This was also one of the issues I brought up in the meeting: broadening the mandate of the two consular delegations. The Soviets insisted that conditions are not right for this. They insist that the two consular delegations stick to their mandates, i.e., that there will be no deviations toward the political sphere, seeing that the two delegations are operating on a consular-technical basis. The Soviets claim that further improvements in bilateral relations, more permanent and broader representations—to the point of full diplomatic relations—depend on progress in the political process.

[Friedman] This, then, was the main issue you discussed. Your interlocutor spoke optimistically and said that the PLO is in the midst of a far-reaching ideological revolution. Do the Soviets know for certain that 'Arafat is about to accept UN Resolutions 242 and 338, recognizing Israel, and renouncing terrorism?

[Novik] I think you have exaggerated a little. They are, however, certainly speaking about a soul-searching process in the PLO. They believe that the general trend in that organization is toward far reaching moves. They define them as historic moves. I do not know if this is similar to what you mentioned, but they are certainly referring to historic moves coming in the wake of the events in the territories, Husayn's moves, and the Soviet encouragement.

[Dayan] We have also heard about this soul-searching process; we heard Abu Sharif and other PLO members, as well as 'Arafat who occasionally voices such sentiments and who wants to speak in the United Nations now. The question is whether or not the Soviets know something we do not know, something beyond the soul-searching process, closer to actual deeds.

[Novik] I think they do know something more than we know, because they are holding extremely intimate and intensive talks with the PLO on these issues. They are also quite blunt about their ability to influence the PLO's decision. Tarasov also pointed toward Abu Sharif's document and Abu Iyad's [Salah Khalaf] remarks as stages in this direction, stressing that even this does not exhaust what we can expect to hear form the PLO. He noted that the Soviets have suggested to the PLO not to hurry, to consider the situation carefully, and to consult with all the factors both inside the organization and outside it, so that the decision that is finally reached will not miss the opportunity they think the PLO has in the current international situation.

[Friedman] The Soviet Union's main client in the region is Syria, and as we know, Syria is greatly dissatisfied with these new trends within the PLO. Syria's Mustafa Talas has said that the PLO already has 21 countries and does not need another one. Do you think the Soviet Union has any influence over Syria?

[Novik] I really do not know. The Soviets have already learned to live with dialectics; the broader their interests, the more contradictions there are between their various clients. They already had this kind of situation with Iran and Iraq, with Iraq and Syria, and today they have it between Syria and the PLO. I do not believe they are greatly bothered by such a dilemma once they have set upon a certain trend. Tarasov reiterated the point that the present Soviet trend is unequivocal: to contribute actively toward ending regional conflicts, from Kampuchea to Central America, including our region.

[Dayan] Dr Novik, can a client such as yourself give any answers and deliver the goods? Can you say anything about what Israel will do? I am asking this in light of the situation in Israel on the eve of the elections.

[Novik] Certainly. Tarasov was extremely interested to hear the possible Israeli reactions to various moves the PLO may make. I made it clear to him that establishing a government in exile or declaring independence is completely meaningless and will be completely rejected by the Israeli consensus. Israel cannot accept anything less than for the PLO to completely renounce the essence of the Palestinian Covenant; in other words, rejecting the existence of Israel and all the other things which make this covenant completely unacceptable to us.

Moreover, I also pointed out to Tarasov that whenever the PLO takes half a step in a direction which is supposedly positive, it immediately attempts to conciliate the extremists in the organization by terror acts, and I warned that Moscow must be aware of this possibility and that it should not contribute to this purported flexibility, thereby actually causing a new round of violence.

[Dayan] We already mentioned bilateral issues, the two consular delegations, and your routine meetings with Tarasov. Have these meetings borne any fruit?

[Novik] I am not sure I can point toward a dramatic development in Soviet-Israeli relations, but I believe that now they have a far better understanding of the way we regard recent events in the region, including Husayn's moves and the events in the territories. We also have a far better understanding of the way the Soviets see things. Considering that over the last 2 months their media has kept silent on this issue and has hardly even reported the basic facts, it was very important to hear from them how they see these things.

Perhaps the most important thing I heard from Tarasov is that contrary to the prevailing notion that until there are new administrations in Washington and Jerusalem there is no point in investing effort in the political process, the Soviet Union intends to exert extremely intensive diplomatic efforts not only in the next few months, but as early as the next few weeks. He said that we will soon see intensive Soviet diplomatic efforts here, because on the one hand they assess that the conditions are right and on the other they must not neglect the matter because the dangers are imminent.

[Friedman] What are the chances that Foreign Minister Peres will visit Moscow before our elections on 1 November?

[Novik] I hope you believe me when I say this issue was not even raised.

[Friedman] Why not?

[Novik] I do not think we should run after the Soviets to initiate such things. If Moscow decides the time has come to upgrade the level of bilateral contacts outside the UN General Assembly, I assume they will find the way to do it.

Agriculture Minister Holds Talks in Poland

TA3008102888 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Aug 88 p 13

[Report by 'Ido Tal]

[Text] Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin, currently on a visit to Poland, was featured as a central personality on Polish television's most prestigious news program. Nehamkin, who is in Krakow, is scheduled to return to Israel tomorrow. When asked about future Israeli-Polish relations, the minister said that he can guarantee any kind of economic-agricultural cooperation in the name of Israel as long as the principle of reciprocity is maintained. "There are things we can learn from you and things you can learn from us," Nehamkin said.

Nehamkin also met with the Polish agriculture minister and invited the Poles to send a professional delegation to Israel. It was decided that the delegation will arrive in Israel during the autumn.

Likud Updates Platform on Autonomy, Territories

TA3008113988 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Aug 88 p 3

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Text] The Likud platform has been updated these last few days. According to a proposal being drafted by the platform committee headed by Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, the platform will stress more clearly the Likud's commitment to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza

Strip; its promise to find ways to apply harsher penal measures in the territories to obtain calm; and its pledge to revive the settling momentum and to expand existing settlements.

According to the draft political platform, the Likud believes that the State of Israel has the right to and indeed claims sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The Likud will raise this claim and take action to implement it. Another clause stresses that there will be no territorial partition in the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza areas, and that no Palestinian state will be established there under any condition.

A special chapter in the platform is devoted to autonomy in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The autonomy idea is restricted by saying that it will not be considered as sovereignty for the residents or self-determination. The new aspect in the issue of autonomy is the fact that for the first time the Likud will support negotiations with the residents of the territories on implementing the autonomy, not with Egyptian or Jordanian representatives. The platform stresses that the Likud will act to establish full autonomy for the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria. The explanatory notes for this chapter state that 10 years have passed since the Camp David accords were signed. Egypt is not prepared to make any pledges on behalf of the local population, and Husayn has declared recently that he is not going to speak for it. That is why the Likud will stress in its policy the notion of a dialogue with the local population to establish autonomy.

The platform determines that the most realistic solution will be interim arrangements leading to an autonomy arrangement. This is mainly due to the fact that the possibility of Husayn acting for the population of the territories no longer exists. As for the international conference, the Likud platform stresses that Israel is willing to hold direct negotiations for a peace treaty with any Arab country. The platform makes it clear that an international conference, in the form currently suggested by the Alignment, will prevent direct peace negotiations and cannot lead to peace.

The updated Likud platform refers to the recent events in the territories and suggests ways to quell the uprising. The platform reads: "The Likud will restore order in Judaea and Samaria by using legal, military, defense, and economic means, and will do all that is necessary to enable the Jewish and the Arab populations to lead a peaceful life. Any use of violence will prompt severe punishment, and, if necessary, even harsher measures."

The chapter that deals with settlements states that the settlement momentum in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el will be renewed and existing settlements will be beefed up.

Shamir on Deportations, Security Situation

TA3008112188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir toured the north today. We have just received the report filed by our correspondent Yo'el Dar who accompanied the prime minister. Yitzhaq Shamir believes that the security authorities should not confiscate the firearms possessed by settlers in Judaea and Samaria when they are used for self defense. Yo'el Dar reports:

[Begin recording] [Dar] A short time ago the prime minister expressed firm opposition to the confiscation of firearms possessed by settlers when they use them for self-defense:

[Shamir] I think that the firearms should not be taken from them.

[Dar] When I asked Shamir, however, how he intends to act, he gave an even shorter answer:

[Shamir] I am acting.

[Dar] The prime minister expressed this opinion during a tour of Moshav 'Amiqam near Binyamina. He was also asked whether the authorities intend to continue the deportation of inciters despite the U.S. position:

[Shamir] There is no U.S. denunciation. They expressed their regret that we use this means too much. If the disturbances continue, however, we can assume that we will have to deport more people.

[Dar] Yitzhaq Shamir does not share the opinion that there is a decrease in the feeling of security both in the territories and within the green line:

[Shamir] There is no decrease in the internal security in Israel. We must not exaggerate. There are occasional incidents, but we should not consider this as a general phenomenon. The security forces must increase their alertness, and they are doing so. I believe that we are in full control of the security situation.

[Dar] Regarding the attempts by the PLO leaders to announce a government in exile, Shamir says:

[Shamir] Israel says that the state of Israel exists here, and there will be no Palestinian state and no Palestinian government. [end recording]

Supports Shooting Rock Throwers

TA3108093488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shamir said yesterday that he supports a change in the IDF's open-fire orders which would enable troops to shoot at Palestinian rock-throwers in the territories.

Shamir's comments, communicated by his office, were made during a meeting with Misha'el Kohen, a settler from Hebron whose Uzi submachine gun was confiscated by police after he opened fire last week at the Al-'Arrub refugee camp. The gun was returned yesterday following inquiries by Shamir.

Shamir said he hoped current discussions on revising IDF orders would lead to "classification of rocks as lethal weapons, against which one should defend oneself in the same way as against petrol bombs and gunfire."

IDF orders require soldiers to shoot at persons hurling petrol bombs or firing live ammunition.

Shamir said "progress had been made" by allowing soldiers to fire plastic bullets at stone-throwers. Plastic bullets are not considered lethal, but are more powerful than rubber bullets.

Shamir said he opposed confiscation of weapons from Jewish settlers who acted in self defence, and that he was working to return weapons confiscated from other settlers in similar circumstances. [passage omitted]

Rabin Briefs Committee on Territory Violence

TA3008162988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Excerpts] If a Palestinian leadership emerges in the territories, it might be possible to come to terms with them on certain issues, but not on peace. This can be done only with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, said Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who addressed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. Our correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Begin recording] Minister Rabin told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that there are two main channels of action in the territories. The first is against the violence, and the second is against the formalization of the popular committees. These two phenomena are the factors which enable the uprising to continue, said Rabin. Stone throwing constitutes some 60 percent of the violent activity in the territories, and is followed by roadblocks, which is in turn followed by Molotov cocktails. The action initiated by the security forces has decreased the latter. The most severe problem at present is the stone throwing, said Rabin. We have returned to the stone age. It may not be agreeable, but the great IDF has to cope with the stone throwers. The defense minister also noted an increase in hostile activities against those whom the residents term collaborators. He further noted that in the eyes of the local population, all those employed by the administration are collaborators.

In his address to the committee, Rabin stressed that he does not support the new legislation to circumvent the Supreme Court, despite the fact that the latter delays the execution of decisions. Rabin revealed that 18,000 rioters have been detained since the outbreak of the intifada [uprising]; 5,600 are detained at present, including 2,600 administrative detainees. [passage omitted]

Summing up his remarks to the committee, Minister Rabin outlined the criteria required of Palestinian leadership in the territories: Talk, rather than throw stones; be genuine partners, rather than postmen to Algiers and Tunisia. There are no such candidates at present, said Rabin. He added that there are some issues that can be discussed with the Palestinians. The fact that a person had been held under administrative detention does not detract from his role in the local leadership. We will discuss everything possible, but not peace which is an issue for a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, said Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. [end recording]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

'Several' Arabs Injured

TA3038174688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Several Arabs were injured in a clash with soldiers in Nabulus, one of them by Army fire. Otherwise the territories were reported as relatively quiet. This, on the first day of the 2-day general strike being observed in the territories. Steve Rodan reports:

[Begin recording] It was a quiet day in the territories, this on the first day of a 2-day general strike in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Once again, Palestinians largely observed the strike called to commemorate the Arabs deported by Israel. Many Arab laborers stayed home from their jobs in Israel, Arab transportation was sporadic, and all stores were closed. The exception was the wholesale market in Hebron.

The violence consisted mostly of stone throwing at Israeli cars. In Nabulus, however, Palestinians threw stones and bricks at an Army patrol. The Army responded with tear gas and live fire. Arab sources say four Nabulus residents were injured; military sources add that only one rioter was wounded by Army fire.

The Army lifted all the curfews in Judaea and Samaria. The exception was the Hebron area village of Bani Na'im.

The Gaza Strip was also reported relatively quiet. Curfews remain on the refugee camps of Jabalyah, Al-Burayj, and Al-Nusayrat.

At the same time, a military advisory committee continued to hear the appeals of 10 Gaza residents ordered deported by the head of Army Southern Command. Today, for the first time, journalists were allowed to enter the compound where the hearings were held. Lawyers for the deportees said they will appeal the deportation orders to the High Court. Tomorrow the

military advisory committee will begin hearing the appeals of 15 Arabs from Judaea and Samaria who had been ordered deported. [end recording]

We have just learned that a Jewish resident of the settlement of Shave Shomron in Samaria was wounded in the head by a stone. Arab youths attacked his car near the village of 'Anabta. The man was taken to a hospital.

Car Passenger Injured by Stone

TA3008193188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Youngsters threw stones at Israeli cars near the village of Biddiya in Samaria this evening. A passenger's head was injured. The passenger was taken to Hasharon Hospital. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that stonethrowing incidents occurred at many points along the trans-Samaria road this evening. [passage omitted]

Five rioters were wounded by IDF gunfire in the casbah of Nabulus this evening. An IDF unit arriving on the scene to disperse a riot was attacked by rioters endangering the soldiers' lives. The unit commander ordered gunfire directed at the leaders of the rioters. Five persons were wounded, including one seriously.

Our correspondent Moti Amir adds that IDF troops in the Gaza Strip demolished the house of a Rafah resident who threw a firebomb. The man was arrested, and confessed to the crime. [passage omitted]

30 Aug Injuries Reported

TA3108044988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Six Arabs and three Israelis were hurt overnight in a series of widespread incidents throughout the territories and in East Jerusalem. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] Five of the Arabs were wounded by army gunfire in a clash with soldiers at the Nabulus casbah. One of the Arabs was seriously wounded. In the village of Husan in the Bethlehem area, an Arab resident was wounded as the army stepped in to break up a demonstration. The man was taken to an East Jerusalem hospital.

The three Israelis include a border policeman who was injured lightly during disturbances in Silwan in East Jerusalem. Two Israelis were injured in separate stone throwing incidents in Samaria. A resident of Shave Shomron was wounded in the head by a stone that smashed through his windshield as he traveled past the village of 'Anabta. He was taken by ambulance to Kefar Sava Hospital, but as the vehicle passed 'Azzun, it was also stoned. The ambulance was slightly damaged. [passage omitted]

In another incident, a firebomb was also hurled at a train traveling near Al-'Ayzariyah. No one was hurt and there was no damage. [end recording]

No School Before 1 Oct

TA3108072188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] A general strike is being staged today throughout East Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Few workers left for their jobs in Israel.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a curfew was imposed on the Shabura neighborhood in Rafah and on the Al-Nusayrat, Al-Burayj, and Jabalyah refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. A curfew was also imposed on the Hebron District village of Bani Na'im.

Our correspondent adds that schools in the territories and in East Jerusalem will not reopen before 1 October. Kindergartens will open on 4 September.

Firebomb Found in Tel Aviv; No Casualties or Damage

TA3108102088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Excerpt] A firebomb was found before noon today on Hata'asiya Street at the corner of Hamasger Street in downtown Tel Aviv. No damage was caused and there were no casualties. Summoned to the scene, the police arrested several Arabs who work and sleep overnight in the neighborhood. [passage omitted]

3 Guards, 2 Inmates Hurt as Prisoners Riot

TA3108043388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] During a riot at the Shatta prison [in northern Israel] last night, security prisoners attacked guards. Three guards were injured during the riot and received medical treatment in the prison. Two of the inmates were slightly injured. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the security prisoners began rioting during the evening headcount. They attacked an officer and then the wardens who rushed to his side. The guards eventually quelled the riot, locking the participants in solitary confinement.

Plastic Bullets Said Nonlethal From Long Range

TA3108050288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] The Ordnance Corps has denied charges that the plastic bullets that were approved yesterday for use in the IDF are lethal from long range, too. The corps experts said that the bullets have been tested under various conditions and with materials used in ballistics tests by police forces the world over; it was determined that the bullets are not lethal when fired from a certain distance. It was also reported that IDF soldiers have received appropriate firing instructions.

Our army affairs correspondent adds that the Medical Corps has also examined the damage caused by the plastic bullets and found they cause injuries only.

Islamic Leader Denounces PLO 'Weakness'

TA3008174488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1630 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] A prominent Islamic leader in the Gaza Strip today called on the PLO not to recognize Israel. Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who is considered the most prominent leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement by both Israel and the Palestinians, argued in a press interview today that the PLO is giving in to Israel due to weakness. He said that this is also the reason why it is contemplating granting recognition to the Jewish state. The PLO is now prepared to agree to what it rejected in the past, the 51-year-old Yasin said. I am telling you: They are giving in to Israel at this very moment.

Yasin went on to say that he did not think Palestinians living under Israeli occupation would agree to the PLO's concessions to Israel, unless these concessions involved short-term tactical moves.

'Truth' Behind PLO Words Viewed

TA3008161088 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Aug 88 p A 14

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "The Gospel According to Bassam"; boldface as published]

[Text] The PLO's "chief explicator", Bassam Abu Sharif, who has become Yasir 'Arafat's main spokesman, this week again came out with an unprecedented message: The Palestinians are ready to recognize Israel—"under the aegis of an international conference"—within the 1967 borders, not merely within the partition borders of 1947, as outlined in Security Council Resolution 181.

Jerusalem issued a routine reaction: "No need to worry, surely in a day or two they will publish a clarification amending the declaration..."

This is a sophisticated reaction, but not necessarily a wise one. In any event, the sophistication of the PLO's novel tactics is on a level infinitely higher than Jerusalem's knee-jerk reactions.

Undoubtedly these tactics—implemented by the PLO's brain trust as part of its current international brainwashing operation to obtain recognition of exclusive Palestinian representation in the conflict with Israel over the fate of Judaea and Samaria—are aimed at including Israel in the circle of those sympathizing with the concept of a direct dialogue with the Palestinians. But this intention is not the main point.

The chief goal of these tactics, which are propagated mainly by Abu Sharif, is to obtain the sympathy of the international arena, or more precisely—the United States.

It is obvious to the PLO that without the consent of the United States it will never obtain a seat at the negotiating table—certainly not Jordan's seat—if it does not first "recognize" Israel. [sentence as published] The PLO has reached the conclusion that it cannot continue adhering to formulas which have no chance of acceptance by any international element whose support is necessary to the PLO. It understands that not just the European community, but the Soviet Union as well, supports an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 boundaries rather than the boundaries set down in 1947. From the moment the PLO adopts this principle, it is supposedly complying with the stand of both the United States and the Soviet Union, whose essence lies in the formula of "territories for peace." From its point of view, the PLO believes that its new approach will facilitate the task of creating an appropriate image of a partner for dialogue acceptable to large segments of both Israel and Washington.

This tactic may also play an auxiliary role in the PLO's proposed move to establish a "government in exile." A "government in exile" requesting UN representation (this topic must have been discussed during the UN secretary general's talk with 'Arafat a few days ago) must also refer to the political boundaries of the "state" it is supposed to represent in the international organization. This tactic entails a considerable danger to Israel. Instead of engaging in inane repartee, Israel should expose the truth behind this move. The truth is that even in its moderate guise, the PLO has never renounced its basic ambition to establish a "democratic-secular" state, which is nothing but a euphemism for the desire to inherit Israel and Jordan. Even if this is no longer the ambition of 'Arafat the pragmatist, it certainly is shared by persons like George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah.

The facts cannot be ignored. The intifada [uprising] reshuffled Husayn's cards. The king, who saw himself negotiating with Israel with the Palestinians hovering nearby like poor relations, has lost the game. He did estimate that through his move of "disengagement" he would be able to prove that no settlement can be reached without him. In doing so, however, he has also admitted that Jordan is incapable of being an active partner in any political process **without the PLO's support**. (The first to reach this conclusion was U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who ultimately abandoned his plan for an international conference.)

Because the intifada turned the PLO into a factor capable of dictating moves to Husayn, Israel cannot make do with routine reactions which ignore the organization's status, even more so since no change has taken place in its **substance**.

A secret Fatah document seized by the IDF during the Lebanon war presents "the elements of the PLO's political activities." Its author is 'Arafat's senior adviser Hani al-Hasan, who has been very active in the PLO's recent efforts to acquire a new image. (He has met with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who supports a dialogue with the PLO.)

The secret document said, among other things: "History teaches us that there are two kinds of forces devoting themselves to the task of changing an existing situation—the revolutionary and the utopian. Both pursue the same end, but while the revolutionary spots the small stages leading to the goal, the utopian ignores them...The art of revolutionary leadership is based on knowing how to move stage by stage until victory is at hand..."

An even clearer statement was made by the "revolutionary" Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department: "We agree to a stage-by-stage withdrawal, to the 1967 borders first, **only to bring about a change in the U.S. stand**, as it happened in Vietnam... There is "peace in stages" and there is "permanent peace," and the latter will not be achieved until a democratic Palestinian state is established. The first means a state established on a part of our land."

There it is—the significance of the new gospel according to Bassam Abu Sharif who has declared that the Palestinians recognize the 1967 borders.

Commentary Foresees U.S.-USSR Mideast Accord

TA3008112588 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 Aug 88 p 7

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "One Uprising, Many Solutions"]

[Text] Israel's current modus operandi in the territories is marked by conspicuous nervousness, as though time were running out. As it becomes clearer that the Palestinians are gradually moving toward translating the intifada [uprising] into expressions of Palestinian nationality, Israel feverishly tries to destroy the infrastructure of that nationality before it develops. This is the correct interpretation of the closure of Palestinian institutions, which started out as a thin trickle, only to become a roaring current. Within a single weekend, three major Palestinian institutions and one more minor center were shut down.

It is becoming evident now that Israel's anti-Palestinian policy is encountering U.S. opposition. This is not only due to Washington's extreme sensitivity to "the welfare of the inhabitants," or what the Carter administration termed "human rights;" it also results from a sweeping political change of attitude toward the West Bank and the Palestinian problem—which, incidentally, is also the background for the new Jordanian policy toward the territories.

The impression is that the two major superpowers have found new grounds for cooperation on the Palestinian issue. Through their contacts, each side has been able to focus on the problematic points of its policy toward the other. The Soviets have in effect scrapped the "Brezhnev Plan," whose goal was to isolate the United States in a Middle East conference with coercive powers. Since the rise of Gorbachev, the Middle East has become an issue for bilateral clarifications between Moscow and Washington. More and more the Soviets are beginning to talk about international forums in the spirit of the U.S. concept; such as "a preparatory committee" or "a meeting of foreign ministers," which are tantamount to conferences devoid of coercive powers and which do not bear the frightening label of the "Brezhnev Plan." The United States has returned the gesture in kind, this change ultimately yielding the model for "an independent Palestinian state," which has been discussed so often recently.

America has effectively abandoned the "Reagan Plan." The underlying principle for that plan was a solution to the Palestinian problem by way of a link with Jordan. As part of this arrangement, Amman would assume control over the West Bank. This was precisely Jordan's strategic objective in holding a dialogue with the PLO. The only practical principle in the "Reagan Plan" to which the Americans still adhere is the emergence of a Palestinian addressee for the political contacts. As long as the "Reagan Plan" still lived, the Americans made sure they would meet Palestinian delegations from the territories whose composition was divided evenly between 'Arafat supporters and Husayn followers. In other words, the United States carefully structured a modest basis for the link between the two banks of the Jordan River in resolving the Palestinian problem. Once the Americans stopped meeting with representations of this type, however, it became obvious that they have forsaken the "Reagan Plan" and that instead of seeking a solution based on a link between the two banks, they have begun consolidating an independent Palestinian solution.

During his last tour of the Middle East, U.S. diplomat Richard Murphy was scheduled to meet with Palestinians, but this time not a mixed delegation. Rather than conferring with a group of Palestinians equally divided between 'Arafat and Husayn supporters, he was to meet with a distinctly Palestinian delegation with members from the territories and from abroad. Jordan no longer has a place in the search for a solution to the Palestinian problem. Once we realize that here in fact is an expression of the agreement between the superpowers, we can easily understand why leftist circles in the territories agreed to meet with the Netherlands foreign minister during his visit to East Jerusalem last month, thereby setting a precedent.

This change in the U.S. policy did not start with Murphy's latest junket. It began when U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz first launched his major shuttle tour approximately 6 months ago. One must always go back

to Shultz' opening moves to fathom the meaning of subsequent developments. Before he departed for the Middle East, and despite a minor tiff with Israel, Shultz summoned Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah—two outspoken representatives of the PLO—but no pro-Jordanian representative to counterbalance them. That was the first time the United States did not expressly request a meeting with Palestinians according to the rules set down in the "Reagan Plan." From that perspective it is possible to determine that the real import of the great Shultz initiative was disengagement from that plan.

Perhaps it is now easier to understand why King Husayn refused to meet with Shultz, and why the hope that "Shultz would break Shamir" was dashed. What actually happened was exactly the opposite: Because the United States realized that there was no Jordanian partner for talks, it sought a different approach in a bid to form some contact between the Likud and the PLO. This was born of the understanding that it is impossible to establish any connection between Israel and Jordan, certainly not between the Likud and Jordan, because in the Likud's mind Jordan is intimately associated with a traumatic event: the partitioning of Eretz Yisra'el.

Interviewed by THE JERUSALEM POST about a month ago, Minister Sharon made a side remark that is quite enlightening. Asked why the maps he presented were marked in English, he proudly replied: I presented these maps to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu "and other elements" whom he refused to identify.

Anyone who presents Ceausescu with maps intends for them to reach the PLO (the "other elements"?). On Friday, another Likud minister, Moshe Arens, told HADASHOT that if the Likud returns to power, it will hold free elections for the institutions of autonomy in the territories. He admitted that the PLO supporters might win and did not sound perturbed by the prospect. This could provide a clue to the true motivation behind the latest Jordanian policy. If Washington has in fact decided to seek a solution in the form of a Palestinian state, Jordan must obtain guarantees that that state will not be set up on the East Bank. Sharon's interview with the POST actually corroborated the rumors that practical steps in that direction are indeed under way. The Jordanians were not surprised.

The U.S. abjuration of the Reagan Plan highlights the true nature of Jordan's reaction to it and underscores the real reasons for Israel's nervousness. It is not so much that Jordan is actually pulling out of the West Bank, as it is that it is strengthening the Jordanian character of the East Bank. Jordan is prepared to help enhance the Palestinian nature of the West Bank, but only with the clear understanding that the East Bank will be recognized, once and for all, as Jordanian.

On this fundamental issue Jordan failed to garner Palestinian support. This increased its fear that behind the Palestinian rejection of a formula advocating a division between the West Bank-Palestine and the East Bank-Jordan lie secret contacts in which the PLO was promised all sorts of things that were concealed from Jordan. Consequently, the Jordanian withdrawal from the West Bank is primarily psychological, at least at the present stage.

The main practical manifestation of this is the creation of a legal vacuum requiring action on the part of the PLO. From the point of view of Jordan's actual control, however, there is no disengagement. On the contrary, Jordan is quite openly trying to tighten its control, and is furthermore enjoying Israeli support in this effort. Evidently the Jordanian withdrawal from the West Bank will only be complete and sincere after the PLO agrees to recognize the East Bank Palestinians as Jordanian subjects to all intents and purposes. As long as this recognition has not been declared, however, Jordan will increase its pressure on the West Bank—but with a view eastward. Jordan is not interested in perpetuating its rule over the West Bank; it wants to guarantee the Jordanian character of Amman once a Palestinian state is established. Jordan is hoping to reap the fruit of its pressure on the West Bank in the East Bank.

During the first week after the monarch's address, Jordan's position seemed unambiguous. Jordan supporters received a clear answer to the entire host of concrete problems raised by the new policy: "Your questions should be addressed to the PLO," Jordan informed them. It lumped the problems of marketing agricultural produce from the West Bank under this category as well. That is why Muhammad Milhim, a PLO man, met at precisely that time with Jordan's supporters in the West Bank. For many of them this was their initial chance to become acquainted, but very shortly thereafter, Jordan's position changed. As soon as the PLO delegation left, a different tune was played. It turned out that Jordan reneged and was no longer willing to agree to give up the channels of agricultural marketing.

Once this became clear, a startling similarity between the Jordanian and Israeli policies toward the West Bank became noticeable. More than a week ago, Jordan issued clarifications to the king's speech. These were found to constitute a series of restrictions and pressures showing an amazing degree of affinity with the parallel bureaucratic pressure applied by Israel, as in the matter of the identity cards. Israeli harassment of the Palestinians is common knowledge by now, but now it is coupled with parallel Jordanian moves. Not only must the West Bank Palestinian now run the whole gamut of Civil Administration red tape, but to renew his Jordanian passport—a temporary laissez passer—he must go to Amman in person and shuttle back and forth in the Jordanian bureaucratic maze.

Palestinian students (excluding residents of the East Bank) currently find themselves in a double bind: On one hand, Israel does not allow the opening of the school year; on the other, Jordan has stopped favoring students from the West Bank over those from Arab countries.

Family reunifications have also become a very acute problem. Jordan now allows Palestinians from the West Bank to spend only 2 weeks in its territory, while Israel permits residents of the East Bank to spend only 3 months on its soil. Recently I met a young man who is married to a resident of the East Bank. He cannot take her to Jordan because he would be thrown out within 2 weeks, while she cannot stay in the West Bank because she would be expelled within 3 months.

Israel and Jordan are tilting at windmills, the former more than the latter. The Arab world will probably listen to Jordan's complaints about the PLO and will try to persuade it to seek a formula to solve the problem of the national identity of Palestinians in the East Bank. When the formula is found, Jordan will have completed its withdrawal from the West Bank. Israel's continued adherence to an anti-Palestinian policy—as if a real Jordanian option were still feasible—is leading Israel to a dangerous confrontation with the United States and Western Europe.

Israel correctly diagnosed the first practical problem stemming from the new Jordanian policy: marketing agricultural produce. An argument has erupted on this matter not just between Israel and the PLO's supporters, but also with the EEC. It would seem that if Israel wants to form part of the European set-up, it must also accept the European political concepts when it comes to the Palestinian question. The Europeans, by favoring a solution that advocates a Palestinian state independent of Jordan, are one step ahead of the Americans on this point. This position has been implemented in the arrangements formulated by the EEC for the direct marketing of agricultural produce from the West Bank to Europe. Only when the EEC showed its determination to impose economic sanctions on Israel, did the latter agree to permit direct arrangements between the EEC and the West Bank.

To illustrate the political context of this move, it should be pointed out that the EEC commissioner, Claude Cheysson of France, coordinated the agricultural contacts with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat rather than with Jordan's King Husayn. The entire EEC policy contradicted Jordan's consistent policy during the days when the marketing of produce from the West Bank was done through Amman, rather than through Israeli ports. The EEC is expected to reach additional agreements with the PLO in the future about the marketing of agricultural produce, and the earlier crisis with Israel will be considered a mere opening shot in the real fight in which Israel will be asked to pay a dear price if it persists in its anti-Palestinian positions. Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin's arrogant remarks about Israel's tenacity did not withstand the pressure of reality when the "mere" question of flower exports came up.

Israel is on a collision course not just with Europe, but also with the international organizations operating in the territories, including those enjoying obvious U.S. support. These organizations have long pursued a pro-Palestinian line, and Israel tried to turn a blind eye as long as the establishment of a Palestinian state was not on the agenda. Things have changed now, however, and if Israel decides to make good on its warnings it will have to take into account that the United States will not take such a move lying down.

Hence, Israel's reliance on Jordan is ephemeral. Israel is engaged in a collision course with the civilized world it wants to be part of, while Jordan is looking for Arab help in settling its dispute with the PLO in order to complete its secession from the West Bank. Since the Arab world will not rush to replace Husayn with Habash and Hawatimah, Jordan has a very good chance of ultimately bringing the Arab world over to its side. Israel will then have to sober up once and for all.

We may learn about the nature of the sobering-up process and the budding Arab support for Jordan's positions—rather than for those of the PLO—from the shape the awakening of Islamic fundamentalism has taken in the West Bank. We mentioned earlier that since the beginning of the intifada the Gaza Strip has not been controlled by the Palestinian national forces—in other words, the PLO—but instead by the Islamic groups. The latter have recently extended their influence from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank, thus posing a larger threat to the PLO.

The Islamic groups are united under the name "HAMAS," the Arabic acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement. The PLO and the HAMAS have been waging a bitter struggle, both over the slogans of the intifada and over its execution in the field. The slogans of HAMAS—no to an international conference, no to talks with Israel—run categorically counter to the PLO's official policy. The Unified National Command of the Uprising demands that the Islamic circles abide by the dates of the strikes as stipulated in the PLO leaflets, and is prepared to agree to separate strikes only on days of religious significance.

The Islamic groups do not take the nationalists' demands too much to heart. To the disappointment of the Unified National Command of the Uprising, there was wide compliance with the strike called by the Islamic groups last Sunday, and its success led to tension between the PLO supporters and the Islamic groups. In the village of Dura, in the Hebron Hills, PLO supporters set fire to shops and apartments of Islamic activists. Last Saturday, knife-wielding Islamic activists prevented PLO supporters from entering mosques.

Just like the Unified National Command of the Uprising, HAMAS issues numbered intifada leaflets. The latest leaflet, no. 28, is particularly important because in

it HAMAS supports Jordan in the struggle between itand the PLO. Special attention should be paid to the title of the leaflet: "An Islamic Palestine From the Sea to the River." Israelis will immediately interpret the intention of the authors of the leaflets to mean—justifiably so—the annihilation of the State of Israel. In the argument between the PLO and Jordan over the definition of who is a Palestinian, however, the leaflet issued by the HAMAS describes Palestine as reaching only as far as the river; consequently, the East Bank is Jordan. With good reason, the Islamic groups rather than the PLO have been given credit for the intifada. What is more important as far as we are concerned is that HAMAS regrets Jordan's decision to sever ties with the West Bank because it believes the first thing to do is to free Palestine, and only later argue about to whom it belongs. This was Jordan's exact position before it decided to pull out of the West Bank.

The PLO had serious problems with the Muslim Brothers even before the intifada. In Al-Najah University in Nabulus, for example, they quite embarrassingly neutralized the PLO. If the Muslim Brothers decide to stand by Jordan with all their might, the PLO will have a real problem. According to its leaflets, the HAMAS also intends to awaken Israel's Arabs so as to liberate all of Palestine. Those busy breaking the backbone of Palestinian nationalism in the West Bank should take into account the surge of fanatic Islam in its stead.

Central Bank Governor on New Financial Measures

JN3008103488 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Aug 88 p 15

[Interview with Husayn al-Qasim, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), by Kuwait AL-WATAN correspondent in Amman—date not given]

[Question] Regarding the closure of moneychangers' accounts abroad, what motivated this decision, and what are its meanings and effects on the money market in Jordan?

[Al-Qasim] It is known that by law, the CBJ is responsible for organizing the money markets and the monetary system in Jordan; for working to provide for Jordanian currency stability and for the convertibility of the Jordanian dinar; and for encouraging continuous economic activity in the Kingdom according to the government's general economic policy. Recently, the CBJ has updated the regulations enforced in Jordan to govern the supervision of currency in light of developments and improvements in the exchange market and in dealing with foreign currencies. We wanted to reorganize and use methods that are easier and more flexible for all dealers in the exchange market. These are citizens and financial, banking, and commercial institutions. Some of these instructions aimed to organize the exchange business in the Kingdom.

Our policy aimed to preserve Jordan's revenues and gains of foreign currency and to direct them toward legitimate goals in order to serve the national economy. By this, I mean that all the Kingdoms' foreign currency gains must be used to supply the country's needs resulting from the general trade imports and ore materials—which are used by industry—and from citizens' travel, medical care, and study abroad. The reason behind asking moneychangers to close their accounts abroad was basically to make them return to their original duties, for which they were established, that is to provide facilities for citizens in dealing with banknotes and not to deal in external transfers. These accounts were used by moneychangers to finance trade deals and capital flight.

When we issued instructions to the banks and finacial institutions, we were careful to ensure that these institutions remain able to finance trade and citizens' needs when travelling abroad for whatever reason. The intention was to confine these transfers to merchant banks, and that only merchant banks and financial institutions make these transfers because they are supervised and are guaranteed to be in a correct and sound banking order. As I said, these were not originally part of the moneychangers' activities. In any part of the world, these are usually carried out by banks and banking institutions.

[Question] What effect do you expect this to have on the money market?

[Al-Qasim] I expect the money market to become organized according to the rate set by the CBJ. In its new instructions, the CBJ sets a daily rate for the Jordanian dinar (JD) against foreign currencies. The CBJ adheres to this rate and provides the banks and financial institutions with their foreign currency needs according to this rate of exchange.

[Question] Before the issuance of this decision, the moneychangers' methods seemed be the reason for the increase in the exchange rate of the dollar. Do you expect it to drop now?

[Al-Qasim] No, this was not the reason for the increase in the exchange rate of the dollar. It was because the whole action was essentially illegal, those who used it have to pay for it. Those who used this illegal method are paying a high price. If any citizen needs foreign currency for use in any legal activity, particularly to finance trade or construction and development projects, then he can go to the bank with which he deals, and transfer the amounts needed in foreign currency at the CBJ's rate without any conditions if he has the necessary certificates from the official departments.

[Question] does this mean that the dollar will return to its true value in the market?

[Al-Qasim] of course.

[Question] Are there are restrictions on transfers abroad?

[Al-Qasim] There are no restrictions on transfers abroad. Here, we must differentiate between accounts in the Jordanian banking system. There are foreign currency accounts which are allowed for nonresidents. Those are our nonresident brothers who reside abroad or who keep accounts in Jordan in whichever currency they desire. As long as these amounts have arrived from their savings and money abroad, then there are no restrictions. As I stated before, a resident who has an import permit can get any amount needed to finance this import. But,if he wishes to travel, get medical treatment, or study abroad, then there are ceilings for each of these. For example, for a citizen who wishes to travel abroad, we impose a ceiling of 5,000 dinars worth of foreign currency per year. The same applies for pilgrimage, travelling for medical treatment, and studying. We took into consideration the actual costs of each of these activities. But, if a patient or a student abroad needs more money, then this request will be studied by the CBJ, which will not object to fulfilling their needs.

[Question] You mean that there are no ceilings imposed for expatriates?

[Al-Qasim] There are no restrictions on the accounts of expatriates and nonresidents. Since he transferred his savings into the country from abroad, then he has the right to transfer them outside the country for any use without any conditions or restrictions. We preserve them

and ask the banks and financial institutions which keep these deposits to keep a 100 percent liquidity of them so that they can guarantee repayment to depositors and liquidate them at any time.

[Question] Regarding the latest measures, there is a clause which allows institutions and organizations in the West Bank to withdraw their funds from Jordanian banks if they wish. Do you think this will effect the monetary situation in Jordan?

[Al-Qasim] These are funds which can be withdrawn at any time. The depositor has the right to withdraw them. These funds were deposited on these terms. Any person who has a deposit at a bank is entitled to withdraw or keep it according to his agreement with the bank. On its part, the bank formulates its policies on financing and uses these resources in a manner that will always guarantee the depositor's money. This applies to any client—company, institution, or individual.

[Question] Regarding the expatriates' transfers, have they remained the same, increased, or dropped?

[Al-Qasim] During the first 6 months of this year, expatriates' transfers increased by 22 percent compared with the transfers to Jordan during the same period last year?

[Question] Is there any intention to devalue the Jordanian dinar?

[Al-Qasim] There is no intention, or need, to devalue the dinar. What is happening in the market is a fluctuation of the foreign exchange rates of foreign currencies against each other. We seek to stabilize the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar by linking it to the special drawing rights. We have a formula which we rely on daily to issue the rate of exchange and which we preserve for this purpose.

[Question] Do you think that the end of the Iraq-iran war will affect the Amman stock exchange and the Jordanian economy?

[Al-Qasim] Firstly, with happiness and pride, we extend our greetings to the fraternal Iraqi people—government, presidency, and people—for the sacrifices they made to achieve victory and defend the Arab world's eastern gate.

Jordan has fully carried out its duty by putting all its resources at the disposal of fraternal Iraq during the its fierce war. Now, after the victory and thanks be to God, we are concerned primarily with the safety of Iraq and its army and entity, and with the safety of its wealth, from which Iraq never hesitated to give support to the Arab countries. In the past, Jordan was one of these countries which received this aid. Now, we look at Iraq's prosperity, which will reflect on the economic conditions in Jordan.

Arab Economic Cooperation Plan Being Prepared

JN3008145988 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Our correspondant in Amman, Randa Habib, has informed us that Jordan is preparing a draft plan on unity, which it will soon propose to Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and the Palestinians, when their independent state is established.

[Begin Habib recording] This is what our radio has been informed of by a reliable Jordanian source. According to the same source, this plan, in its initial stage, calls for developing a system of economic cooperation between these countries, which will lead to economic integration based on realistic grounds and general benefit. This economic integration will serve the purpose of starting some kind of unity among these countries, which are not members of the GCC and are not linked to the countries of the great Arab Maghreb, which are seeking at the moment to form a union among themselves.

The source added: This plan will be presented to the concerned nations for discussion to reach a joint formula toward implementing the steps of final unity. It should be mentioned that, when Jordan announced its disengagement of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank on 31 July, the Jordanian monarch said that asserting the national identity does not contradict achieving unity formulas, which should include all Arabs. The example he gave on that was the EEC, which he said, today is heading toward achieving a political European unity after having succeeded in achieving economic integration among its members. In this context, Husayn affirmed that the bonds of contacts and assets that bring the Arabs together are much greater than those of the European nations. [end recording]

Greater Soviet Peace Role Called 'Imperative'

JN3108062788 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Aug 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Soviet Initiative"]

[Text] Most parties in the area should welcome the news that the Soviet Union may soon launch a dynamic initiative aiming for a negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Several key elements of such a move have started falling into place, including: an improvement in Israeli-Soviet contacts, the expectation that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is on the verge of a major new policy announcement emphasising Palestinian willingness to coexist in peace in an independent Palestinian state next to an Israeli state, the emergence of important voices within Israel which speak about Israeli-PLO negotiations in the wake of a Labour Party victory in the parliamentary elections, and the end of American-dominated peace-making.

The Soviet Union is in the midst of a major political transition, whose full implications and ramifications remain to be seen. One obvious result of the Gorbachev era, however, is already visible in the willingness of the two superpowers and their allies/clients in the Third World to resolve regional conflicts in a more just and realistic manner, as we have started to witness in Afghanistan, Namibia, Cyprus, Cambodia, the Gulf war and other spots where superpower influence varies in nature and degree.

A greater Soviet role in Arab-Israeli peace-making is not only useful—it is imperative. It will rid us of the nonsensical idea that the United States is the only possible mediator in town and it will provide the geo-political balance that is vital for meaningful talks and, subsequently, for effective security guarantees delivered through and assured by the Security Council, or some other United Nations or multilateral arrangement. As the Soviets are likely to focus on the concept of equal national rights for both Palestinians and Israelis, and guarantees for all other concerned parties in the region, we suspect their approach will be well received in the area, and will help redress the balance which has been distorted for so long by American inequity, bias and insensitivity.

'Israeli Conspiracy' Blamed for Lower Dinar Rate

JN2708081588 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Aug 88 pp 22, 18

[By the economics editor: "Reply to Israeli Television's Allegations on the Jordanian Dinar"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The value of the Jordanian dinar against foreign currencies on the domestic and international money markets has not changed, except in the margins that normally affect various currencies. The dinar's exchange rate in Arab money markets continues to maintain relative stability.

Repeated Israeli television reports about a drop in the value of the dinar against the Israeli shekel may be true, but the reason is not that the West Bank's residents have withdrawn large amounts from their bank accounts because, simply, they cannot transfer them to the West Bank due to Israel's own restrictions. The drop is linked neither to economic reasons related to the dinar nor to psychological factors concerning the situation of citizens in the occupied territories. It is a result of an intentional Israeli measure aimed at shaking confidence in the Jordanian economy, adding to the strain and suffering of the occupied territories' inhabitants, and intensifying the daily problems of the uprising's leadership.

Israel's measures to prevent the flow of financial assistance to the West Bank have actually resulted in a tangible decline in the flow of dinars. They might have helped to transfer other amounts of the dinar out. Consequently, there has recently been a sharp decline in the amount of Jordanian currency offered on the occupied territories' money markets. We also know that the number of people visiting the occupied territories this summer was limited, causing an additional shortage in the amount of Jordanian currency on the market. In light of these economic factors, it is supposed—according to the law of supply and demand—that the value of the Jordanian dinar or its actual exchange rate should increase against the shekel, which has been constantly declining because of chronic problems and difficulties in the structure of the Israeli economy and blows dealt to it by the uprising. Therefore, in light of the fact that the supply of dinars was small, we cannot expect the decline in the dinar's exchange rate for economic reasons. And as the Palestinian resistance grows stronger, it is impossible to attribute the decline to psychological factors affecting our citizens there.

The decline in the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar against the Israeli shekel is due to a delibrate plan by occupation authorities. These authorities placed large numbers of dinars, accumulated at the Israeli Central Bank over the past years, on the market. They were ready to suffer a limited loss. The aim was to create confusion among citizens there and increase their suffering caused by the high prices of the commodities sold with Israeli shekels. Moreover, the decline of the dinar's rate may achieve the Israeli authorities' dream of creating a tremor in the Jordanian economy. The possibility of this event receives conflicting explanations in the Jordanian and Arab streets.

The allegation that the Jordanian dinar's value has dropped in the occupied territories is definetely an Israeli conspiracy, directing its poisonous arrows toward many targets. However, the awareness of our citizens here and there, their knowledge of the Israeli enemy's intentions, and their readiness to resist these intentions by all means will ensure that these agressive intentions backfire.

Higgins Reported Possibly in Al-Biqa' Barracks

NC3108053388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Informed sources expect the arrival of a Belgian Muslim envoy in Beirut soon to hold consultations with influential key figures in West Beirut in a bid to secure the release of Belgian physician Jan Joergensen [name as heard—Jan Cools is Belgian hostage] who was kidnapped in Tyre over a month ago.

In another development, a security report says that William Richard Higgins, kidnapped by Hizballah, may be being held in the Hizballah-controlled Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks in the Al-Biqa' Valley.

Anglican Envoy Brown Comments on Hostages

NC3008173188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Anglican Church envoy John Brown stated that he has received some encouraging responses in Beirut about the fate of the four Iranians kidnapped in East Beirut 6 years ago, whom Iran wants released. Brown also said that freeing the British hostages is a task that concerns the British and Iranian Governments only. He expressed his optimism over the improvement in relations between London and Tehran. The Anglican envoy, accompanied by British Ambassador in Lebanon Alan Ramsay, visited the mufti of the Republic, Shaykh Hasan Khalid. Talks during the session dealt with the issue of the foreign hostages being held in Lebanon.

Israel Sends Reinforcements to South

NC3008113688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] According to reports from southern Lebanon, the Israeli occupation forces have strengthened their positions in the occupied border zone. They have sent 350 Israeli soldiers, 22 armored personnel carriers, and 11 Merkava tanks into the area and deployed them between Marj 'Uyun and Ibil al-Saqy. At midday today, Deputy Farid Sarhal, who was at Mansur Palace, made a telephone call to Jazzin to inquire about reports that an Israeli force composed of 10 tanks had entered Jazzin today. He was told that there was no truth in these reports and that no Israeli force entered Jazzin today.

Israeli Aircraft Overfly South 30 Aug

NC3008191188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Israeli aircraft have been flying over Sidon and the refugee camps for some time and firing flares into the air. The Israeli aircraft are being confronted with anti-aircraft fire.

VOL on Mock Raids

NC3108144088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes overflew and carried out mock raids over the Palestinian camps in Sidon at 1430 today.

Captured Israeli Pilot Reportedly Ill

NC3008114088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] The ARAB WORLD weekly magazine has cited sources in Hizballah as saying that the Israeli pilot who was taken prisoner in 1986 is suffering from a severe intestinal disease. According to the sources, a number of specialists, including a retired physician in the Iranian Embassy, have been summoned to treat him. The Amal Movement took the pilot prisoner after downing his plane over Sidon in 1986. The pilot was held in the custody of Mustafa al-Dirani, former security official in the Amal Movement, who handed him over to Hizballah when he broke away from the movement.

Al-Huss Ill, May Go Back on Resignation

NC3008113388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] For the 2d day running Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has stayed at home and cancelled his engagements because of a health ailment [wa'kah sihhiyah].

Citing Islamic political sources, Reuter reported today that Al-Huss intends to go back on the resignation of his government so it may assume presidential tasks if the deputies fail to elect a new president before 23 September. REUTER added that Al-Huss made this decision after politicians and leftist and progressive parties rejected any new government to succeed the present one.

REUTER quoted Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Acting Prime Minister al-Huss as saying that during their talks in Damascus on Sunday they received the impression that Syria is determined to continue its support for the candidacy of former president Sulayman Franjiyah and to reject an alternative government to the present government.

Meanwhile, in the next 2 days, Acting Prime Minister al-Huss is expected to hold meetings with the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to inform them of the dangers the formation of a transitional government will pose to Lebanon's unity and future.

Taken to Intensive Care

NC3108050088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, who has been indisposed for 2 days, was rushed to the American University Hospital last night. He was admitted to the intensive care unit, under the supervision of Dr Ibrahim al-Salti.

Condition Improves

NC3108062888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss was rushed to the American University Hospital yesterday evening with a severe attack of asthma. Dr al-Huss was

thoroughly examined and treated by University President [title as heard] Dr Ibrahim al-Salti. Due to his critical condition, described by doctors as worrying, he was admitted to the intensive care unit. His condition later improved. Dr al-Huss has been indisposed since his return from a visit to the Syrian capital last Sunday.

One Killed in Shtawrah Car Bomb Explosion
NC3008121788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] One person was killed and 7 were injured in the explosion of a booby-trapped car near the Beirut and Arab Countries Bank in Shtawrah at approximately 1300 today. According to eyewitness reports, a 1974 blue Volvo stopped near the bank. Its driver then left the car and went to Shtawrah Square where he was picked up by a white Pontiac carrying three persons.

The explosion was detonated by remote control. The dead man is Sami Hasan. The wounded, all of them children, are Nidal Ghazi, 'Adil Hasan, Sami Hasan, Ahmad Hasan, Ahmad Yusuf Handal, Sami al-Hasan, and Yusuf Khalid. The internal security forces and the Syrian security forces went to the scene of the incident and began their investigations.

[Paris AFP in English at 1155 GMT on 30 August in a similar report says: "A car-bomb exploded Tuesday in the Syrian-controlled Al-Biqa' Valley, killing a child and injuring six people, police said."]

Lahd Comments on Presidential Election Issue
NC3008125288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, has announced that his visit to Beirut was for the purpose of holding consultations on the issue of the Lebanese election and bringing together the views of key figures of the region. He was speaking in an exclusive interview with Middle East Television.

Maj Gen Lahd expressed the belief that the election will be held on schedule and within the constitutional time limit. Lahd said that if a president owned by foreign powers is elected this will have a negative effect on Lebanon in general, and the South in particular.

Lahd asserted that he does not intend to cause confusion during the elections. He stressed, however, that he will do everything in his capacity to prevent the election of a president who is owned by foreign powers.

Lebanese Forces Oppose Government's Continuation
NC3008153088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] The Lebanese Forces have expressed the belief that stands made public by some factions in West Beirut are aimed at implementing the policy of partitioning Lebanon, undermining its international legitimacy, consecrating the occupation, and eliminating the country's last vestige of independence and sovereignty.

The Forces expressed astonishment over calls for letting the present government remain in power, because this government resigned, and its resignation was accepted. The present government, the Lebanese Forces added, has failed to convene a single cabinet meeting and is to blame for the economic disorder and the disruption of work in the state's institutions. Therefore, we cannot accept this government's continuing to act as a proxy for occupation in the bankrupt Republic of Lebanon.

The Lebanese Forces statement stresses the need to hold the presidential elections before 23 September and achieve inter-Lebanese reconciliation so that unity might replace the current fragmentation.

Islamic Resistance Operation on Border Detailed
NC3008192388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] The Islamic resistance carried out an operation inside the occupied border strip today, detonating an explosive device as a foot patrol of the agents of the so-called southern Lebanese army was passing on Bra'shit-Bayt Yahun road. Two agents were killed and four others wounded. This operation coincides with the 10th anniversary of the disappearance of His Eminence Imam Musa al-Sadr.

RFL on Velayati Talks With Shi'ite Leaders
NC3108061788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] It is reported that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati held talks with Lebanese Shi'ite leaders during his recent visit to Damascus. However, these talks have failed to ease the serious dispute between the Amal Movement and Hizballah on the one hand, and between Tehran and the movement on the other.

According to the same information, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, and Minister Nabih Birri have rejected Velayati's offer to revitalize Hizballah's political and military presence in the South in return for financial reparations for the Amal Movement. Shams al-Din and Birri have also turned down Iranian invitations to visit Tehran.

In another development, it has been learned that Tehran has decided to appoint Ahmad Nurani, its former charge d'affaires in Beirut as ambassador to Lebanon. He will replace Ahmad Dastmalchiyan, who failed to bring about an honorable end to the southern suburb war in Hizballah's favor, and who is also accused of sympathizing with the Amal Movement.

Khaddam Receives Lebanese Interior Minister
JN3008161788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Damascus—Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 1200 today Lebanese Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi. The talks dealt with the current situation in Lebanon.

People's Assembly Delegation Departs for Moscow
JN3008112388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] A People's Assembly delegation headed by Nabil Baydari, head of People's Assembly National Guidance and Indoctrination Committee, left Damascus this morning for the USSR on an official visit lasting several days. During the visit, the delegation will hold parliamentary talks and will make familiarization tours.

This visit comes within the framework of strengthening ties, exchanging expertise, and coordinating on issues of mutual concern for the two friendly countries—Syria and the USSR.

Commentary Says U.S. 'Interfering' in Lebanon
JN2908144288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1133 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The conventional wisdom inside and outside Lebanon is that the obstruction by a Lebanese quarter of the parliamentary session to elect a new president into office has introduced a complex situation in the country. And with the continuing obstruction of another parliamentary session to fulfill the constitutional task of choosing a president in proper circumstances, the door has opened up many future possibilities—the best of which will still taste bitter for the Lebanese who cling to the hope of safeguarding their unity and territorial integrity through national accord.

The U.S. Administration is openly interfering in Lebanon's domestic affairs. American diplomats are trying to prevent a quorum of deputies in Lebanon's parliament, turn the Lebanese against each other, and keep the house members from carrying out their task of choosing a new president. This, however, does not make the Lebanese quarter—that made itself a tool of the U.S.-Israeli policy that has devastated the country and plunged it into an internal conflagaration—any less culpable than Washington.

It is indeed an onerous responsibility for which a hefty price must be exacted from the culprits if they persist in their negative, subversive role and stick to the American-Israeli option hostile to Lebanon's best interests and the wellbeing, safety, and security of the areas where state authority is being arrogated, oppression practiced, liberty confiscated, the constitution violated, and the banner of illegality raised in the name of a legitimacy that lacks even the barest requirements for recognition by anybody.

Those who are bullying the majority of the Lebanese, holding themselves above the constitution under the wing of the United States, will do well to remember the fate of those who sought the protection of the French colonialists against the majority of the Lebanese, their deputies, and nationalist government. Further, they had better bear in mind that U.S assets in Lebanon today stand no comparison with those France once had in Lebanon.

The U.S. Administration can, to the extent that this is constitutionally feasible, influence the presidential race between George Bush and Michael Dukakis. But the U.S. Administration has no business poking its nose in Lebanon's presidential contest, taking action against presidential candidate Sulayman Franjiyah, or, for that matter, dictating to deputies what they must do in their house in the course of carrying out their constitutional obligations. What the United States failed to achieve in Lebanon when its naval units were deployed in Lebanon's territorial waters and in the east Mediterrannean, its Marines stationed on Lebanese soil, its guns and aircraft shelling the Lebanese countryside, it will surely fail to achieve today or tomorrow. Any Lebanese who think otherwise are mistaken.

Should the House of Deputies continue to be thwarted from carrying out its constitutional function, events that no Lebanese—who has his country's interests, continued existence, and citizens' coexistence at heart, and who wants an end to the irregular conditions and illegal manifestations—wants, will arise. The maneuverers, the deceitful, and advocates of the slogan of compromise over national accord will then find out that neither Washington nor Tel Aviv will be of any avail.

Any possible allegation of legitimacy to be made after the expiry of the constitutional deadline set to choose a new president will not do them any good either. The fringe minority outside the national mainstream will be in no position to force its will on the majority. The usurpers of legitimacy will be neither capable nor qualified to work in the name of legitimacy. The sole thing they can do is to take responsibility for fragmenting, splitting, and assassinating security and peace, and to have to be called to account by the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese.

Paper Says Lebanese Forces Serve U.S. Plans
JN2808084288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Aug 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Lebanese Forces and the Wager on the Arab Nation's Enemies" AL-BA'TH says: Lebanese parties continue their consultations and contacts to reach solutions to end the unbearable anomalous

state of affairs. Reports received from the Lebanese arena state that there is total conviction that the obstruction of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies session for the election of the most suited president took place thanks to U.S.-Israeli instigation while the tools which carried this out were local tools, represented by the so-called Lebanese Forces which have been imposing their control on the people in some areas for many years.

Lebanese nationalist sources affirm that the issue is not one of electing a president. It is more serious than this. It is, in reality, the issue of a homeland. The Lebanese Forces have completely linked their fate to Lebanon's enemies, no matter who these enemies are. They have also implemented all that they were asked to do, whether on the level of the dialogue which was carried out in Geneva and Lausanne to attain common denominators that would restore vitality and unity to Lebanon on the level of obstructing any policy, irrespective of its source, that could lead to a solution. To fulfill these objectives, the Lebanese Forces have done much to harm the Lebanese people and territory. The assassination of nationalist Prime Minister Rashid Karami came to crown their terrorist operations against all those who work for, or even think about Lebanon's salvation.

To avoid future miscalculations, all parties must become aware of what is being prepared for the Arab nation, specifically for the Palestinian cause from the Lebanese gateway and through the tools of the United States and Israel. We believe that the capitulatory plans of the 'Arafatist clique is within this framework. In any case, we in Syria will continue to work with all parties to face any eventualities. However, what we hope is that the Arab brothers see what is taking place and will adopt the appropriate stand at the appropriate time.

Commentary on 'Isolationist Forces' in Lebanon

JN3008144788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The isolationist forces have moved another step toward escalating tension in Lebanon through their call for a transitional government to replace Dr Salim al-Huss' legitimate government. The objective of this escalatory step is to implement the partition scheme after the isolationist forces had obstructed the session at the consitutional deadline through terrorism against some deputies, who were not allowed to attend the session.

The formation of a transitional government means the announcement of a canton in preparation for dividing Lebanon and torpedoing all achievements of the Lebanese brothers toward safeguarding Lebanon—territory and people—and crystallizing a national accord to overcome obstacles and negative points that made the situation erupt 15 years ago.

This isolationist faction that refuses to abandon its dreams such as privilege and hegemony, is now making calculations on the basis that any constitutional vacuum will pave the road for establishing its factional entity after it failed to impose its course on the Lebanese arena. This isolationist faction, which has not learned from past lessons, is trying through its alliance with the Zionist enemy, the deviant 'Arafatist clique, the fascist regime in Iraq, and the Camp David regime in Egypt to make the situation in Lebanon explode, obstruct the Lebanese national accord, and create a new situation. The objectives are the following:

First, weakening the Lebanese national resistance, which turned the occupied area in the south into a daily battlefield—disproving the Zionist theory on security which calls for what the enemy calls the security zone.

Second, taking the achievements of the mammoth popular uprising in the occupied Arab territory and casting doubts on it to market the scheme of the 'Arafatist clique to hold direct talks with the Zionist enemy.

Third, attempting to harrass Syria by causing a conflict in order to serve the American-Zionist scheme to impose the Camp David accords on the Arabs.

The conspiracy against Lebanon is clear, and parties to this conspiracy are identified. As the isolationist faction represents the true face of this conspiracy, the followers of the Camp David acords and those wagering on American and Israeli solutions are also responsible for the implementation of this conspiracy against lebanon, which only serves the Zionist and American schemes in the region.

Lebanon has remained steadfast in the face of all plots thanks to Syria's support. Lebanon's Arab people, who adhere to their national unity and alliance with Syria, possess all potentials to abort all schemes. The abrogation of the 17 May agreement proves that NATO fleets cannot seize the national will of the Lebanese brothers as the Zionist invasion failed to impose occupation and hegemony over Lebanon.

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry Denies Refugee Routes Mined

LD3008200088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman issued the following statement:

The Foreign Ministry spokesman denied a White House spokesman's allegations that the United States is trying to remove mines which have been laid in the roads used by returning Afghan refugees. The spokesman noted that recently well known circles have been pushing an anti-Afghan campaign by spreading rumors that mines have been planted in the border areas endangering returning refugees. These claims are being made at a time when Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran want to return to their homeland. The Republic of Afghanistan is providing all the necessary facilities for their return in line with the national reconciliation policy and the Geneva accords.

The United States and its collaborators—the source of the undeclared war against our country—have continuously tried to obstruct in one way or another the peaceful solution of the situation around our country and to prevent the refugees from returning. The White House spokesman made these allegations in order to terrify the refugees and to unleash unbridled propaganda against the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. We once again declare that all refugee routes are safe and that the UNGOMAP and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees have been informed about the location of these routes.

The return of 160,000 refugees after the declaration of the national reconciliation policy is irrefutable proof of the safety of the refugees' routes. The Republic of Afghanistan, in keeping with the Geneva accords, has proposed the establishment of joint commissions with Pakistan to organize, coordinate, and oversee the he voluntary return of refugees and to specify the return routes. A favorable response from Pakistan is expected.

Of course, a number of mines that are nowhere near the refugees' routes had been planted around military and economic establishments for defense against attacks by the extremist elements. So far as it concerns the limited contingents of the Soviet Union, they have cleared a number of mines and provided maps of the others to the Afghan side and to the appropriate UN agencies.

If the United States is really concerned about the returning refugees and helping with their resettlement, it should truthfully observe the Geneva accords, as it is a guarantor. The United States should cooperate in setting up joint commissions and providing assistance for the refugees through the appropriate UN agencies and through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Soviet Contingents Prepare To Defend Kabul

BK3008161588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1520 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 30 (AFP)—Soviet armoured columns were deployed on a strategic hill in central Kabul and the Afghan Government tightened security after reports that about 1,000 resistance rebels had infiltrated the city, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

The diplomats said Soviet forces have occupied Bibi Marou Hill, which runs through the centre of the city and overlooks Kabul Airport and a complex housing government offices and residences.

Approaches to the hill have been mined and additional Afghan troops and armoured vehicles have been deployed around the airport following rocket attacks Saturday which forced it to close until Sunday, they said.

Diplomats said the Soviet forces have taken over the position "to prevent mujahidin (rebel) use of the hill as a rocket-launching site."

Diplomats quoted government sources as saying the mujahidin still had a stock of 3,000 rockets in their arsenal around Kabul.

In the past three months, "around 1,000 mujahidin guerrillas have infiltrated Kabul city," they quoted the sources as saying, adding that "their aim is to assassinate or convert" members of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

They said the Communist Party recently "circulated warnings to party members that they should move around in groups."

Roving patrols had been increased to strengthen the 40-kilometer (25-mile) security ring announced by Afghan ruler Najibullah, they said.

However, diplomatic sources contradicted reports by the Soviet News Agency TASS that the mujahidin had fired 127 rockets Saturday on Kabul. They said the rebels fired only 34 rockets, most of which hit the airport area.

The barrage caused extensive damage to the old terminal and the airport was evacuated. Flight operations remained suspended for about 20 hours and the runway was hit, preventing large aircraft from taking off, they said.

Two Ariana Airlines YAK-40 planes and a TU-154 and two AN-12 aircraft were damaged, the diplomats said quoting airport personnel.

They said 25 Afghans were killed and wounded in the attack. TASS said two Soviets died, but the diplomats quoting airport staff said "there were additional Soviet casualties."

The diplomats said the rebels continue to cut off Salang highway—linking Kabul with Moscow—for several hours each day.

In the past two weeks, the guerrillas have destroyed up to 60 government vehicles, but Soviet troops have failed to intervene, they said.

According to one report, the diplomats said Soviet troops had been "fraternising with the mujahidin," and in one case "even helped them mend their vehicles."

"We do not know whether the Soviets have made a formal non-aggression pact with the mujahidin in the Salang area," belonging to the forces of the Panjsher commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, they said. "But it seems possible," they added.

They confirmed that Taleqan, the provincial capital of Takhar, bordering the Soviet Union, was captured by Commander Mas'ud's men earlier this month and remains under mujahidin control.

Elsewhere in southeastern Qandahar, they said, heavy fighting was continuing between regime troops and the mujahidin in Arghandab and Baba Wali Saheb.

Fighting was also reported to be heavy in nearby Ghazni, in eastern Paktia and western Herat.

The diplomats said the government has relaxed restrictions on obtaining travel passports and lowered passport fees from 360 dollars to 90 dollars. They believe the move was to allow potential opponents to leave the country without difficulty.

The diplomats also believe the regime is planning another tribal assembly, or loya jirgah, in line with a proposal by U.N. envoy for determining the future political make-up of the country.

The diplomats said the state-managed tribal assembly could be timed to coincide with the U.N. General Assembly debate on Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Penetrate Defenses in Takhar Province

BK3008144388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have been increasing their pressure on the Kabul regime troops and they have achieved fresh successes.

In Takhar Province, the mujahidin penetrated into the defenses of the Najibullah regime forces on last Friday [26 August] and captured three security posts besides gaining control of the (Chak) region. Thirty-five soldiers were captured and a large quantity of arms and ammunition of various types was also seized.

Armed Forces Crush 'Extremists' in South

LD2908175888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] According to a BIA military report, the Armed Forces pursued a group of armed extremists in the vicinity of Greshk District, Helmand Province, at the request of the local inhabitants. Forty extremists were crushed, 60 were injured, and a surface-to-surface missile launcher was destroyed in the operation.

According to another report, the Armed Forces crushed an extremist group belonging to Gulbuddin band in (Sara Rod) District, Nangarhar Province. Fifteen extremists were killed and 8 were injured in the operation. A recoilless gun, two rocket launchers, and dozens of various weapons, and an ammunition depot were destroyed.

The Armed Forces recently crushed an extremist group in the Shinkorak region, Konar Province. According to the BIA military section, the group's ringleader (Muhammad Gol) and 4 members of the group were killed and many of them were injured. Several of their ammunition depots were also totally destroyed in the operations.

'Extremists' Fire Missiles in Mehtarlam

LD2908203788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Yesterday criminal extremists fired heavy weapons against the residential areas in Mehtarlam city, Laghman Province. The BIA military section reports that one of our compatriots was martyred and a number of houses of the inhabitants of that province were damaged by the surface-to-surface missiles.

Armed Forces Discover Missiles Aimed at Jalalabad

LD3108092488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] The BIA military correspondent reports from Jalalabad city that seven surface-to-surface missiles which were deployed in (Bawali) region attached to Sorkh Rud District, to be fired at residential areas of Jalalabad city, were discovered and removed yesterday by the country's Armed Forces.

Armed Forces in 'Full Control' of Qandahar

LD3108092588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] The units and companies of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan based in Qandahar Province, who are enjoying the all-round support of the peaceloving people and who have high combat readiness and ability, are foiling the hysterical efforts of the enemies of peace and tranquillity.

This was stated by a BAKHTAR military section reporter in a dispatch from Qandahar city. He adds that the units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Qandahar city are in full control of the situation. Together with the inhabitants, they independently take part in the restoration of a peaceful climate in the historic province of Qandahar.

The inhabitants are continuing their normal life in Qandahar city and they have strong and unshakable relations with the government agencies and the Armed Forces personnel. They discharge their patriotic duty, together with the Armed Forces, for the restoration of peace and calm in the surroundings of Qandahar city.

The head of the Armed Forces' political department in Qandahar Province told the BAKHTAR correspondent: It must be said that recently some of the extremists tried to disrupt the people's life in Maywand and Arghandab Districts. However, they met with blows inflicted by the Armed Forces and received heavy losses.

He added: A number of border regions of Qandahar have been proclaimed peace zones in order to fully implement the policy of national reconciliation. In these regions the ulema, the clergymen, and the tribal leaders are cooperateing closely with the government to end the war, the bloodshed, and the fratricide. This process continues relentlessly.

'Extremist' Groups Clash in Parvan, Faryab
LD2908171688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Twenty-four people were killed and 25 injured in intensive clashes between extremist groups in the (Qalacheh Sokhta) region, Parvan Province.

According to report from Faryab Province, 10 people, including [name indistinct], the ringleader of an extremist group, were killed in intensive internecine clashes around Pashtun Kowt.

Najibullah Marks Pashtun, Baluchi Solidarity Day
LD3108102388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 30, BAKHTAR—The Pashtoons and Baluchis solidarity day (August 30) was marked in capital and provinces today.

President of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA CC, Najibullah, prime minister, M. Hasan Sharq, cabinet members, leaderships of left-wing democratic parties, elders, chieftains of Pashtoons and Baluchis residing here attended a gathering held here on the occasion at Pashtoonistan Square.

Speaking at the gathering Kabul mayor, Mohammad Hakim congratulated Pashtoons and Baluchis on the occasion and reiterated on the solidarity of Afghan people with their struggle.

While the national anthem of Pashtoons and Baluchis was playing the national flag of Pashtoons and Baluches was hoisted by the Kabul mayor.

The participants were addressed by the prominent Pashtoons revolutionary poet and personality, Ajmal Khatak. He thanked for the support given by the Afghan people and the leadership of Afghanistan to Pashtoons and Baluchis in their righteous struggle.

"We mark the Pashtoons and Baluchis solidarity day at a time when the voice of peace and national reconciliation is being heard in every city, village and city in Afghanistan, Pashtoon and Baluch people as peaceful people of the world are also support the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation", Ajmal Khatak said.

The Pashtoonistan Square in Kabul was decorated with state and national flags and slogans in favour of peace and solidarity.

Meetings and gathering as reported from provinces have also been devoted by the people on the occasion.

Najibullah Receives Cosmonauts' Families
LD3008095188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 29, BAKHTAR—The president of the Republic of Afghanistan Najibullah received in the Delkosha Palace families of Captain 'Abdul Ahad Mohmand and Colonel Mohammad Dawran, Afghan cosmonauts, here today.

Najibullah congratulated the historic flight of the Afghan cosmonauts and hoped successes in their mission.

The Afghan-Soviet joint space flight is not only a matter of (?pride for) the peoples of the two countries but it will also strengthen the traditional friendship existing between the two countries, Najibullah added.

Colonel Khan Muhammad, brother of Captain 'Abdul Ahad Mohmand on behalf of the families thanked the Afghan leader for receiving them and expressed gratitude for Najibullah's affectionate message addressed to the Afghan cosmonauts.

Foreign Minister Wakil Visits Hungary

For Hungarian coverage of Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil's 25-27 August visit to Hungary, including his meetings with Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi and Presidential Council President Bruno F. Straub and the signing of a cultural accord, see the Hungary section of the 26 August East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Bangladesh

President Tours Flooded Areas Near Dhaka

BK3008170688 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Excerpts] President Ershad today visited Kamrangir Char on the outskirts of the capital to see the flood situation and the condition of the affected people.

The president went to the affected areas by a speedboat and visited the houses submerged by onrush of flood waters of the river Burhi Ganga. He saw the people taking shelter on the roofs of their houses. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, reports coming in from various parts of the country indicate further worsening of the flood situation. More areas have gone under water, damaging property and crops and making people homeless.

Our Rangpur representative says flood situation in Kurigram and Gaibandha Districts remained unchanged, though a slight fall has been recorded in the water level of the major rivers of the region. Jute Minister A.K.M. Moidul Islam today visited the flood-affected areas in Chilmari, Ghazipur and (Ruhmari) upazilas [subdistricts] under Kurigram District.

Train communication between Dhaka and northern districts remained suspended as railway track between Badiakhali and Konarpara-Boraikhali is still under water. State Minister for Communications Mamdudur Rahman Chowdhury met roads and highways officials in Rangpur today and directed them to repair and rehabilitate damaged roads and bridges on priority basis.

In Rajshahi, Chapai Nawabganj, and Nowgong Districts, overall situation has worsened with a rise in the water level of Padma, Mahananda, and Akrai.

Our Khulna representative says the flood situation has taken a serious turn in Narail District following the rise in the water level of Madhumati and Nabaganga Rivers. The situation was further aggravated due to breach of flood control embankment in the district.

The situation in Magura District deteriorated further with new areas of Magura Sadar [center] and Sripur upazilas going down under water. Magura-Mohammadpur Road has been partially inundated.

Our Sylhet representative reports the situation further aggravated in Habiganj District as new areas have gone under water. About 5 lakh people of Balia Chak, Ajmeriganj, Nabipur, Madhabpur, and (Baksai) upazilas have been affected. The situation in Sunamganj, however, has shown some improvement.

Meanwhile, 280 maunds of rice and 36,000 taka have been distributed among the flood-hit people so far. Our correspondents from Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Ghazipur, Faridpur, Rajbari, Chandpur, and Comilla also reported deteriorating situation of flood in their respective areas.

The flood waters have begun entering Jamalpur town. Dhaka-Tangail road communication stopped today following the inundation of a portion of the road in Kaliakair upazila in Ghazipur.

Portions of Dhaka-Daudkandi Road and the Daudkandi Ferry Ghat [pier] have been inundated by flood waters, rendering the road unsafe for vehicular traffic. As such, the Roads and Highways Department has closed the road for vehicular movement from midnight in the interest of safety of life and property until further orders. [Words indistinct] and Daudkandi ferry services will also remain suspended.

India

Lok Sabha Passes Defamation Bill After Debate

BK3108033888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] The Lok Sabha has passed the defamation bill. Opposition members, who offered a stiff resistance throughout, staged a walkout as the bill was put to vote. Government amendments as well as an opposition amendment, moved by Mr Amal Datta, CPI-M, were adopted. The House rejected several other opposition amendments, including the one seeking to refer the bill to a joint committee of Parliament and to circulate the bill for public opinion. The House sat late to complete consideration of the bill amid heated and acrimonious debate.

The bill, among other things, gives effect to certain recommendations of the Law Commission and the Second Press Commission. It provides for punishment for imputation falsely alleging any commission of offense against a person and trial by a sessions court. It specifies imprisonment as well as fine. The bill also contains provisions for protecting unintentional defamation, fair comment, and certain types of privileged statements.

Another provision of the legislation deals with punishment for publication in any newspaper or periodical grossly indecent or scurrilous matter or matter intended for blackmail.

Piloting the bill, the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, dismissed as most misinformed the opposition criticism that the bill suppressed the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press. He asserted that the right of the press to publish the truth will always be defended however unpleasant it may be. At the same time, he said, under the country's law and the Constitution, the press enjoyed the same kind of rights as the ordinary citizen, and, therefore, it should exercise the same restraint as a citizen. He said no one has the right to make reckless charges damaging the reputation of an individual and get away with it. Mr Chidambaram informed the House that some of the suggestions made by Mrs Geeta Mukherjee, CPI; and Mr Ayyappu Reddy, Telugu Desam, have been accepted and incorporated in the bill through official amendments.

Official Notes Power Problem in INSAT-1C

BK3108050288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] The chairman of the Space Commission, Professor U.R. Rao, says the INSAT-1C satellite cannot be put into full use due to a snag in the power system. Talking to newsmen at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center near Trivandrum yesterday, Dr Rao said the satellite will now be operated for meteorological services. Mr Rao said the ASLV [Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle] program will be continued despite the two failures. He made it clear that the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle program is going on as per schedule.

Soviets To Help Set Up 2 Nuclear Reactors

BK3108080988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] India is to set up two nuclear power reactors of 1,000 megawatts each with Soviet assistance. Based on pressurized light water, these reactors will use enriched uranium as fuel. The minister of state for science and technology, Mr K.R. Narayanan, told the Lok Sabha today that this model is one of the safest developed in the world. It is different from the Chernobyl type. He informed the House during question time that Indian nuclear scientists are satisfied with the safety aspects and negotiations are now in progress with the Soviet Union on the terms and conditions. He said the enriched uranium to be supplied by the Soviet Union will be under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the spent fuel will be taken by that country.

Gandhi Stresses Hope for Resolving Punjab Issue

BK3108050488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] The prime minister has expressed the hope that a solution to the Punjab problem will emerge from the ongoing efforts. Mr Rajiv Gandhi told a delegation of Sikh youths in New Delhi yesterday that it is heartening that all communities have jointly stood up against terrorism. A delegation of farmers from flood- and quake-hit areas of Bihar also met the prime minister.

In Punjab, a farmer was shot dead by terrorists in a village in Gurdaspur District early this morning. Terrorists forcibly entered the house of the farmer before killing him.

Gandhi Urges Mandatory Village Assemblies

BK3008165388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] The prime minister has called for making panchayat [village assembly] elections mandatory. He said if necessary the Constitution should be amended to ensure that elections to panchayat bodies are held regularly. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was addressing in New Delhi today the general body meeting of the Congress-I party in Parliament. He referred to the great faith of Jawahar Lal Nehru and Indira Gandhi in the usefulness of panchayat raj [rule] institutions and said prolonged nominations to these institutions do not allow proper leadership to develop among the people.

The prime minister stressed the need for decentralization of both political and administrative power to the grassroots for proper growth and development of the country. He pointed out that much wisdom and high patriotism exist in the people at lower levels, hence their effective participation in planning as well as implementation is absolutely necessary. Decentralization of power and authority will help proper growth of incentive and leadership among them. Involvement of the people at lower levels in program implementation and monitoring will go a long way in containing corruption.

About district planning, the prime minister observed that what is being done at this level at present is nothing but district budgeting only. This does not meet the hopes and aspirations of the people. Citing the example of Darjeeling, Mr Gandhi said the tension among the people eased when they were given some responsibility to shoulder.

Briefing newsmen, the parliamentary party secretary, Mr P.N. Sukul, said the prime minister expressed unhappiness over the fact that no efforts seem to have been made since the 1950's for effecting decentralization of power and authority from Delhi and the state capitals to lower levels. Mr Sukul said Mr Gandhi was happy that the Congress-I parliamentary party has organized a 2-day workshop on panchayat raj institutions.

Rao Rules Out LTTE Talks Until Accord Accepted

BK2908163988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] The minister for external affairs, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, has ruled out any talks with the LTTE leader, Mr Prabhakaran, till he accepts the Indo-Sri Lankan

accord. Replying to the debate on a short-duration discussion on the situation in Sri Lanka in the Rajya Sabha today, he said the LTTE had initially accepted the accord and agreed to surrender the arms. But, unfortunately, they had gone back on this, leaving no scope for further talks.

Mr Narasimha Rao asserted that the accord is not negotiable, as it insures the united Sri Lanka with full safeguards for the Tamils, enabling them to live a life of equality.

Mr Narasimha Rao said the PKF will be called back after it fulfills its mission of a political solution to the problem. He said the PKF has not gone there to wage a war or to find a military solution, but it is there in pursuance of a well-defined task.

Mr Narasimha Rao said the accord has achieved a degree of acceptability of the people which was never there before. He, however, said that the package of powers given to the councils can be further improved once the process starts. He expressed the hope that the conditions will be congenial in the very near future and the Tamil population will take part in the elections. He regretted that certain unforeseen circumstances have resulted in the nonimplementation of the accord.

Replying to various other points raised by the members, the minister said the accord will also ensure that both India and Sri Lanka help each other maintaining unity and nonaligned status.

Spokesman Promises Firm Reaction to LTTE Threat
BK2808155288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the government will deal firmly with all those who resort to terrorism on Indian soil. He was reacting to a threat by the LTTE that they will carry out terrorist activities in different cities of India if PKF does not stop operations against it. The spokesman said the LTTE's threat only confirms that the organization and its leadership have no faith in democratic process and believe in terrorism and violence to impose their will and achieve their ends. The spokesman also said all necessary precautions are being taken to meet any such threat.

PATRIOT Editorial Opposes Cuts in IPKF
BK2608104088 Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Aug 88 p 1

[Analysis by Cecil Victor "Surface-to-Air Missiles in Sri Lanka"]

[Text] The recovery of the surface-to-air missile (SAM) and launcher ought to have brought home to the Government and the military top brass that there are forces at work that do not want India to successfully complete its mission in Sri Lanka within a short time frame.

The Government of India became euphoric at the sound of acclamation even from those countries who were seen to be directly affected by the signing of the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord. These included US, Britain and France—countries whose naval intrusion into the Indian Ocean has been facilitated by continuing instability in the Gulf, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka (the last-named because it was supposed to host a UN conference on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace).

Among those directly affected by the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord also include Israel, racist South Africa and Pakistan. Any one, or all of them in conjunction, would be happy to see India mired down in its conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. China, which has ploughed a lonely furrow in the Gulf and West Asia (even while participating in the US-Pak strategic consensus) would also like to see that happen.

Approbation and recommendation of the seemingly impossible (made so by clandestine interference by the very lot that is clapping from the sidelines) is part of the methodology of destabilisation as laid out in black and white by such practitioners of the art as Edward Luttwak who has documented how Third World leaders have been led to their doom by Western approbation in his book "Coup d'Etat: A Practical Handbook".

All the above named countries' separate intersts are served if India is bogged down in Sri Lanka or conversely, have to withdraw without completing its mission. All of them benefit from instability in Sri Lanka, notwithstanding all their protestations to the contrary. A half-finished job will also be quite welcome to President J.R. Jayewardene.

Having, at last, become aware of the danger, the Government of India need not walk into the trap laid for it. The induction of SAM's in the LTTE arsenal is meant to neutralise the helicopters that the Indian Peace Keeping Force [IPKF] has been using so effectively to surround and penetrate LTTE hideouts.

The calculation apparently is that as in Afghanistan where Soviet helicopter gunships were generally made less effective by the presence of Stinger SAMs supplied by the US, the efforts of the IPKF to flush out the LTTE would become hampered both physically and by an orchestrated political campaign for its quick withdrawal from Sri Lanka.

The helicopter gives to the IPKF secure mobility untrammeled by booby-traps and landmines that the LTTE has used so effectively against surface-mobile Indian troops. These weapons are not only highly destructive but also help to slow down IPKF operations which, in turn, would extend the presence of Indian troops on the Island.

Empirically, the only way to curb an insurgency is by a ratio of manpower of 50:1 vis-a-vis the insurgents. This ratio will vary only by the density of population in an urban setting and the lay of the land. Helicopters, by their mobility and vertical envelopment, help reduce the ratio.

To handle a likely rash of SAM's the Government of India must first halt the thinning of IPKF forces and, if necessary, not hesitate to induct more troops into Sri Lanka to maintain the kind of pressure that has brought it some spectacular results in recent times.

In no event must it allow itself the luxury of trying to handle the job with inadequate manpower as it did in the early days of the operation.

Finally, newspapers have reported that smuggling is rampant across the Palk Strait. If the Indian Navy, the Coast Guard and the local police are unable to stop it then we may as well write finish to the Sri Lanka Accord.

Daily Says Death of Ziaul Haq No Tragedy

BK2608111788 Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Aug 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Pakistan Without Zia"]

[Text] Shock will be widely shared over the sudden and rather mysterious death of President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan in an as yet inadequately explained air crash. Has he become a victim of some fanatics opposed to the Geneva accord which his government signed, though it was being breached every step of the way? Did some ambitious member of the military Junta conspire to bring down the Presidential plane to further his own ambitions? All these questions will continue to hang in the air because the General apparently did not meet his death by accident. There can be little dispute about the importance of the event and its impact on the country he ruled for over a decade and subcontinental relations. It will, however, be idle and absurdly hypocritical to pretend that General's violent end is a tragedy in these terms. For, there is no gainsaying the fact that the era that has ended with him was hardly one distinguished for a Pakistani advance towards democracy. It was one that witnessed sustained and considerably successful efforts at institutionalisation of a dictatorship and repeated rebuffs to the movement for democratic restoration. It was also, not without reason, one when a regional and international role was forced on Pakistan that served the interests of neo-imperialist patrons and not of its own people. The curtain has come down on the Ziaul Haq age.

That does not make it an occasion for undue optimism, either. There is no ground for hope that, with the life and career of Gen Ziaul Haq, the era of dictatorship has come to a close in Pakistan. It can, of course, provide a fresh impetus to the democratic movement and propel it towards victory. And it does, certainly, provide a golden opportunity for the military to entrust the country to civilian rule again. But, then, there is no guarantee at all of either of these scenarios materialising. The late President was after all the third of the military dictators the product of the "two-nation theory" has known. Pakistan's social conditions have made possible the recurring revival of such dictatorship after every instance of its eclipse or end. And these persist even now. There is nothing at all, for example, to suggest that the scope for a political role of the army of its capacity for it has declined to any sinificant degree. On the contrary, there is no reason why the army cannot be expected to intervene again in the political affairs on the plea that the alternative is chaos for the country. For another, the force of religious bigotry systematically pampered during the Ziaul Haq rule is bound to make democratic restoration a difficult task.

There can be no doubt about the course the well-wishers of the people of Pakistan, in this region and elsewhere, would hope for developments in this regard to take in the coming days. Their solidarity with the movement for democracy in that country is only strengthened by the certainty that, of its own free will, it is unlikely to continue as a frontline state of American interests that run directly counter to subcontinental amity.

Iran

UN-Sponsored Peace Talks Continue in Geneva

Dredging 'Stumbling Block'

LD3008113488 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 30 Aug 88

["Iraq's Claim on Waterway Main Stumbling Block"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 30, IRNA—Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said here Monday that his government expects the United Nations to provide for the dredging of the Arvand River.

Speaking to reporters, he repeated Iraqi Government's claims on its sovereignty over the waterway, commenting that this would not imply Iran's loss of shipping rights in the river.

Sources at the U.N. believe the statement indicates Iraq's designs for converting the status of the river into an international waterway in the event it should fail to establish its claims.

He reminded Iraq refuses to discuss other subjects in the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 until the dredging of the River Arvand in completed and freedom of Iraq's shipping in the Persian Gulf is guaranteed.

On Sunday night U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said implementation of Resolution 598 and the setting up of a date for the return of the Iran-Iraq troops to international border is his main preoccupation.

He said Iran had previously announced its agreement with the time-table for the implementation of the articles of the resolution.

A news source at the U.N. Headquarters told IRNA Monday that Perez de Cuellar has informed members of the Security Council of the procedure of Geneva peace talks according to stipulations under Article 9 of the resolution.

As Iran-Iraq delegations followed their talks at technical level Monday night, it was announced that the simultaneous meeting of Perez de Cuellar with Velayati and 'Aziz would not be held on that night.

Informed sources here say that Perez de Cuellar is trying to find ways for channelling the talks away from controversial topics.

A U.N. spokesman said the need for more technical meetings caused an unexpected delay in the Monday night meeting. He said the next meet would possibly be held on Tuesday afternoon.

He said that U.N. legal and military experts are holding separate talks with the two delegations at lower levels.

POW Exchange Discussed

LD3008121388 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting with President of the International Committee of Red Cross Sumaruga in Geneva Tuesday discussed ways of implementing the 3rd article of Resolution 598 regarding exchange of POWs.

Velayati stressed at the meeting that the Islamic Republic is prepared to implement Resolution 598 and that Iranian people are looking forward to seeing the release of their war prisoners.

The foreign minister regretted that the Iraqi regime, since the start of the Geneva peace talks has practically obstructed its implementation by raising issues irrelevant to the resolution.

He said for humanitarian reasons the Islamic Republic is willing to take every necessary measure for repatriating the prisoners of war.

'Technical Level' Talks Seen

LD3008165988 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 30, IRNA—U.N. spokesman Francois Giuliani said here today that Geneva peace talks will continue at the technical level, with experts from Iranian and Iraqi delegations and the U.N. chief's advisers. He however expressed ignorance when they will be resumed.

Questioned on the possibility of internationalization of Arvand River (Shatt-al-'Arab) which forms the southermost part of the two countries' border, Giuliani refused to comment, but told reporters the mass media should not be very sensitive towards the Arvand River issue.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in an interview Monday had said that his country calls for dredging of Arvand River on the part of the United Nations.

The U.N. sources said continuation of peace talks at experts level indicates the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's efforts to resolve the problem.

Giuliani confirmed Perez de Cuellar's meeting with representatives of the U.N. Security Council's permanent members in Geneva.

Unconfirmed reports in circulation at the U.N. HQ says Security Council members have given their backing to the U.N. chief's resolve to carry on the peace talks on the basis of his plan.

The Iraqi delegation has been trying to stall the talks since their start last Thursday, by insisting on the dredging of Arvand River before discussing a time-table for implementation of the Resolution 598 articles.

Meanwhile, sources close to the Iranian delegation said it (Iranian delegation) has no objection to be present in Geneva at the present level if the U.N. chief intends so.

Perez de Cuellar is to visit Lisbon on Thursday, but U.N. sources said his visit to Portugal, if necesary, may be called off or shortened.

Perez de Cuellar on Impasse

LD3008190688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] According to IRNA, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today said: The Iran-Iraq talks have made no progress because of the two countries' disagreement over the implementation of Article 1 of Resolution No 598. This article refers to a cease-fire on land, in the air, and at sea followed by the immediate withdrawal of forces behind internationally recognized borders. Without mentioning the Iraqi regime' claims on the Arvand River, Perez de Cuellar stressed: Sovereignty over the Arvand River is one of the problems facing these talks. He emphasized he would continue his efforts.

Velayati Rejects 'Preconditions'

LD3008223388 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] In a telephone interview with Iran's TV network tonight, Foreign Minister Velayati said that in the current negotiations in Geneva, the Iraqi delegation said the same things they did in New York talks. He added that

despite the failure of the Iraqis during the New York talks, they had set forth new preconditions, such as the cleaning-up operations of Arvand River, which we will never accept.

What we want, Dr Velayati stressed, is that Resolution 598 be implemented in the framework of the UN secretary general's executive plan, and we will accept no preconditions.

The foreign minister further said that another demand of the Iraqis is that Iran neglect its right for inspecting Iraqi ships in the Strait of Hormuz and other waterways of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the cease-fire period until the establishment of peace. This is also unacceptable, and we will defend our legitimate rights against their illegitimate demands, he added.

Velayati on 'Unjust Demands'

NC3108080988 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Greetings, Mr Velayati.

[Velayati] Greetings.

[Correspondent] What does the Iraqi delegation have to say in the current talks and how long do you think the current deadlock will continue?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. Greetings to the dear listeners and viewers. What the Iraqis are doing in the current talks is simply a repetition of their former behavior; that is, their behavior during the first round of talks in New York before the establishment of the cease-fire, where they propounded the precondition of direct talks in order to implement Resolution No 598. They were defeated then.

Now they are voicing new preconditions, such as the dredging of the Arvand River, which is not at all acceptable to us. What we want is that the resolution be implemented on the basis of the text of the resolution—in accordance with the spirit ruling the resolution—and within the framework of the UN secretary general's implementation plan. As in the past, we will not accept any preconditions.

They also want the Islamic Republic to waive its right to inspect Iraqi ships in the Strait of Hormuz and in the Islamic Republic's waters during the cease-fire period until the establishment of peace. This is not acceptable to us. We will completely defend our rights and will not, God willing, give way to their unjust demands.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much for talking with us.

[Velayati] Thank you.

Rumors of New UN Plan Denied

NC3108054288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Telephone report by unidentified correspondent in Geneva—recorded]

[Text] Following the deadlock in the Geneva talks, there have been rumors that the UN secretary general is preparing a three-point plan to facilitate progress in the discussions. Members of the Iranian delegation at the Geneva talks have denied that there is any such plan, saying that they are completely unaware of its existence. According also to news media in Geneva, it is likely that within the next few hours UN officials will confirm that there is no such plan. Meanwhile, UN sources believe that, under Security Council pressure, the UN secretary general is determined to call for the implementation of the second paragraph of the first section of Resolution No 598 on the withdrawal of the two countries' forces behind international borders as soon as possible.

UN observers believe that the UN secretary general has spoken about his desire to leave the Geneva talks and go to Portugal in order to exert pressure on the Iraqi delegation in a bid to end the deadlock in the talks. Nevertheless, it is not likely that he will leave Geneva before the framework of future developments in the talks has been clarified.

This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva.

Waterway 'Sovereignty' Viewed

LD3008221088 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Unattributed political commentary: "Iraqi Intentions Are Revealed"]

[Text] At the conclusion of the fourth round of indirect talks between the Iranian and Iraqi delegations with the UN secretary general, it seems that the aggressive intentions of Iraq have become totally revealed. The statements of Sa'dun Hammadi concerning the 1975 agreement and the claim of sovereignty over the Arvand River which was revealed in Geneva last Sunday put an end to all doubts and clarified the correctness of rumors.

Yesterday the televised interview of Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, too was within the same framework. Tariq 'Aziz who approached the reporters after a few days of absence in order to move his country's aggressive intentions made utmost attempts in order to adopt the periodical trend aimed at further evaluating these intentions in their national reflections. [sentence as heard] Tariq 'Aziz, too, in the course of the interview several times attempted to refrain from openly rejecting the 1975 Algiers agreement which is the only valid

international document for the determination of Iran-Iraq border lines. Finally, being faced with repeated questions posed by the reporters he was forced to confess to this issue.

The Iraqi regime has not yet mooted its illegal claim in the official session of the Geneva talks, and political obervers, due to this same issue, believe that the Iraqi regime probably does not yet have a correct and comprehensive conclusion of the reflections of its illegal demands, and it seems that Saddam Husayn, in order to get rid of the disgrace of the acceptance of the agreement which he himself has torn into pieces in front of the Iraqi people, has brought himself to a greater problem. The main problem of the Iraqi regime at the moment is that the territorial claim of that regime not only does not enjoy any legal base; rather, it helps the Islamic Republic of Iran to further strengthen its basic stance.

The mooting of the issue of complete sovereignty over Arvand River is an aggressive issue which had been already mooted by the Iraqi regime at the beginning of the war. If such a thing was proved it could have eased the work of the team surveying the issue of the initiation of the war and the determination of the aggressor; and today apparently there is no problem in this regard.

In yesterday's interview, Tariq 'Aziz, while announcing this issue that we have not yet taken any steps forward, implicitly confessed that the regime of Iraq has been the main agent responsible for the talks to come to a deadlock. He said: We are still talking about the commitments concerning the cease-fire. Further explaining this issue, the Iraqi foreign minister added: Iran has started using its ports for business purposes, and in this connection has benefitted right after the implementation of the cease-fire. Therefore, it is logical that Iraq, too, should benefit from the cease-fire.

According to political experts, the justification of the Iraqi foreign minister in this regard would resemble this question as to why Iran has been geographically placed along the Persian Gulf shores. This is natural that Iran should make use of all the natural possibilities it has in hand, in the same manner that the Iraqi regime makes use of its possibilities.

Another misleading point in the statements of Tariq 'Aziz is that the Islamic Republic of Iran, even prior to the cease-fire, too, made use of its ports. From the viewpoint of those experts in political issues, mooting of baseless issues of this kind are not mere excuses for gaining more concessions, and we should see whether the Iraqi regime is in a position to moot such excuses for gaining more concessions or not.

The fact is that the Iraqi regime has no chance whatsoever in the political propoganda scene; and in case it is willing to test its chance on the military scene, certainly many tests have already been taken in this field, and the Iraqi regime can once again try and put to test its chance on this scene as well.

Majlis Speaker Calls Talks 'Unsatisfactory'

LD3108112088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and speaker of the Majlis, visited various departments of the Foundation of Islamic Revolution History yesterday evening. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question from a Central News Unit correspondent on the Geneva peace talks, the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces said that the course of these talks is unsatisfactory. He added: The world today is closely following the Geneva talks and any news on these talks attracts many listeners. When the people see that one side holds a firm position and discusses its points sincerely and frankly while the other side resorts to new tricks every day, they understand how aggrieved we are. Perhaps this will change the world's opinion.

The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces added: We are not worried about the outcome of the talks. For us there are two alternatives: To achieve peace is our main goal. However, if the war is to continue—although we do not want this—it still would be better than continuing the war under the previous circumstances. But we have not given up hope of reaching peace. As the imam has said: Our people should realize we are in a war situation and if we are negligent, we shall suffer blows from the enemy. We should be prepared, but we should not give up hope. In any case, either alternative will lead to peace eventually. We shall either achieve peace through talks, or Iraq's violations will lead to the resumption of the war. In that case, we shall certainly achieve peace from a stronger position and with better conditions.

'Informed' Military Source on Iraqi Violations

NC3108063788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] An informed military official has listed the following violations of the cease-fire by the Iraqi forces. On 22 August 1988:

1. In the 'Eyn-e Khowsh area, the Iraqi forces advanced toward Iranian forces within the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and forced our troops to retreat from their positions.
2. Iraqi forces tried to advance within the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Faqqeh front and along the Faqqeh-Chananeh highway. After moving forward into Iranian territory, they took up positions in the new area.
3. Fifty Iraqi armored personnel carriers broke through the cease-fire line in the Pich-e Angizeh area. They penetrated and advanced into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and took up positions near our forces.

4. Two Iraqi helicopters took off near the Dopazah Heights to support the Iraqi forces that were penetrating the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran. After advancing into Iranian territory, the Iraqi forces hoisted the Iraqi flag.

Violations of the cease-fire by the Iraqi forces on 23 August 1988:
1. Iraqi forces penetrated and advanced into Islamic Republic territory in the Hoseyniyeh area.
2. Two Iraqi armored and mechanized brigades in the (Doyrej) area, between Musiyan and 'Eyn-e Khowsh, encircled the Iranian forces. They set up barbed wire fences, laid mines, and arrested and took captive 700 of our forces.

On 24 August 1988, Iraqi forces advanced from the cease-fire line in the Sumar area during the night and set up barbed wire fences behind the Iranian forces.

Also on 25 August, Iraqi forces launched several mortars at the Iranian forces in the general area of Faqqeh.

On the same day, one of our men in the Khosrowabad area was shot in the head and martyred by the Iraqi forces, using a weapon with telescopic lens. UN observers were present in the area and saw this incident for themselves.

Violations of the cease-fire by the Iraqi forces on 27 August:
1. The Iraqi forces broke the cease-fire line in the general area of Marivan and the (Savaji) garrison, and penetrated and advanced into Iranian territory, toward the Iranian forces.
2. In the general area of Sardasht, Iraqi forces, together with counterrevolutionary forces and treacherous and dependent minigroups, crossed the cease-fire line. They advanced toward our forces' positions within the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran. One member of the Iranian forces was wounded during the clashes that ensued.
3. In the general area of Oshnoviyeh, Iraqi forces fired 50 artillery shells at the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran between 1000 and 1430 [0630-1100 GMT]. Fortunately, there were no casualties.

The military official concluded by saying that the headquarters of the UN cease-fire observers force in Tehran has been given full details of all the violations by the Iraqi forces since the cease-fire went into effect.

General Command Deputy Calls for Volunteers

LD3108104188 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA—'Ali Reza Afshar, deputy of the general command of the Armed Forces in charge of manpower has called for volunteers to the war fronts "in order to foil enemies' plots."

In a statement Tuesday night, he asked the responsible organisations to keep the battlefronts on the alert. He also called on Muslim combatants to serve an extension period at the war fronts and at war-related organisations and thereby substitute for those whose military service has just terminated or is to terminate shortly.

The statement follows the imam's speeches Tuesday in which he alerted the nation to the new conspiracies by the enemies of Islamic Revolution.

"Iraq's stalling of peace talks and breaking cease-fire at least for 22 times indicates its criminal and inhuman nature and betrays its open challenge to international laws," he said.

He stressed Muslim combatants will not leave Muslims and freedom-loving people to be subjugated by the overbearing power blocks and will not allow "the silence of submission to spread its shadow on the world."

Montazeri Meets With Defense Minister

LD3008183888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Brigadier General Jalali, the defense minister, accompanied by several of his deputies met yesterday with the deputy leader, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

Western States 'Surrender' to Nation's Will

LD2808100588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] Last week's cease-fire declaration has finally put out the flames of a war instigated by the enemies of the Islamic Revolution. However, while the peace negotiations in Geneva attempt to implement Resolution No 598, discussions on future relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Western states take up a large proportion of the world mass media publications.

In this regard the most prominent topic centers around the idea that Iran, having moderated its fundamental revolutionary aspirations, wants to normalize its relations with countries that have a history of hostility and enmity vis-a-vis the revolution. In other words, the media are trying to tell the deprived, whose eyes are on the Islamic Revolution in Iran, that Iran, like all other revolutions, has shifted toward reconciliation with the global superpower because of difficulties resulting from the war.

Will the world truly believe this publicity magic? Will the imperialist media be able to substantiate such a claim in the world? [passage omitted] We must ask the organizers of the world media how can a nation, which has endured the hardship and difficulties of a full-scale military war

for 8 years, successfully and without ignoring its principles, while enjoying victories, suddenly change its direction to pursue reconciliation with the enemy. Can we believe that a nation embroiled with a bloody battle will not pursue its revolutionary and righteous principles, despite the fact it denied even the slightest backtracking to the enemy and despite the fact it sees the approaching victory?

Obviously not! Our brave nation today has defeated the enemy's aggression and stands firmly by its revolutionary principles. In this view, the real reason behind the reestablishment of relations between the Islamic Republic and the Western countries is not flexibility and reconciliation on the part of Iran, but their defeat and surrender in the face of our national morale and will.

In other words, today those countries that have experienced war conditions have realized that hostile moves cannot dent the steel will of the Iranian nation in defending its principles. Therefore, they are forced to correct their attitudes and change their ways due to the steadfastness they have seen in Iran.

However, in this arena too, the Iranian Government, viewing their performance in the course of the imposed war and while upholding its principles, has the power of choice and initiative.

Aqazadeh Says Damaged Oil Wells Operational

LD2908130488 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—The wells and installations of Salman oil rig damaged at U.S. attacks on April 18 have been repaired and are now operating, said Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here today.

Speaking to reporters on the occasion of the Government Week he said the repair work was carried out by experts of Iran's Continental Shelf Company and the rig started operation with a capacity of 50,000 barrels a day which is 35 per cent of its potential production.

He said foreign experts would possibly be invited through international tender in case of need according to regulations of Islamic Republic to cooperate with Iranian experts to increase the platform's capacity to over 160,000 barrels a day of [as received] before U.S. attack.

Aqazadeh said the installations and wells in Sirri area which were attacked on the same day by U.S. forces were repaired and put back into operation by producing 80 per cent of their total capacity. He stated that Nasr oil field sustained major damages during the attack. Nevertheless, at present it produces 20,000 barrels a day.

Regarding Reshadat and Resalat oil fields, 100 kms from Lavan Island which were damaged by U.S. forces on April 19 last year, he said all wells which caught fire were taken under control by Iranian experts. He added that eight wells out of 24 were seriously damaged during the attack. However, despite heavy pressure and considerable eruption of oil and gas from the last well, it came under control last week.

U.S. naval forces attacked two Iranian oil platforms of Nasr and Salman in the Persian Gulf on April 18. Nasr platform in Sirri Island had a daily production of about 38,000 barrels of oil. The Salman platform, a joint Iran-Abu Dhabi oilfield, had been previously subjected to Iraqi attacks several times.

The aggressive U.S. attack came after Washington accused Iran of being behind the mine explosion which damaged the destroyer USS Samuel Roberts in the Persian Gulf a week earlier.

He reminded that the wells in Reshadat and Resalat oil fields were under control despite the presence of foreign fleets and Iraqi attacks before the announcement of cease-fire in the Iraq-imposed war which went into effect on August 20.

The oil minister said the repair of wells and oil installations in the sea need complex technology and heavy expenditures. He reminded that several pipelines and wells inside the water have been damaged in the Reshadat and Resalat oil platforms.

Aqazadeh said experts and workers of the National Iranian Oil Company have saved the waters from being polluted by oil.

Iran exploits over 200,000 barrels of oil per day from the Persian Gulf resources and oil fields. However, he said, Iran intends to increase its exploitation of the wells of continental shelf. To achieve this, he added, installations and facilities would be purchased from abroad and foreign experts would be employed if necessary while adhering to the policies of the Islamic Republic.

Investigation is being carried out for a joint venture by Iran and Qatar on a gas field between the two countries, and Aqazadeh said the findings and decisions in that relation would be published probably in early November.

New Pipeline To Carry Oil From USSR

LD2908121488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that on the 3d day of Government Week, the Bandar-e Anzali-Rasht oil pipeline was commmissioned today.

Oil Minister Aqazadeh announced the news today. He said: Iran imports 3.5 million liters of diesel oil from the Soviet Union per day. This used to be transported by sea from the Soviet Union to Bandar-e Anzali, and to Rasht by tanker lorries.

The Bandar-e Anzali-Rasht pipeline makes it possible for the diesel oil purchased from the USSR to be directly transported from Bandar-e Anzali to Rasht.

He added: This amount of diesel oil provides a portion of the demand in the north of the country. Its transport by pipeline makes some saving in the transport costs compared to tanker lorry transport in the past.

He pointed out: The pipeline construction took 2 months. Today, on the 3d day of Government Week, it was commissioned.

OPEC Secretary General Arrives for Talks

LD2908152288 Vienna OPECNA in English 1450 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, 29 Aug. 88 (OPECNA)—OPEC Secretary General Dr Subroto arrived here today in continuation of his tour of OPEC member countries. He was welcomed at the Mehrabad Airport by Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported that Subroto told journalists that he would discuss the international oil marke and OPEC's production with Iranian officials.

The secretary general also stressed the need for OPEC member countries to abide by the resolutions of the organization's conference.

Since his assumption of office as secretary general on 1 July, Subroto has already visited six OPEC countries—United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Kuwait. Besides Iran and Iraq, he will visit Qatar, Algeria, Gabon, Libya and Nigeria before the next OPEC ministerial meeting in Vienna on 21 November.

Plans To Discuss Oil Quotas

LD2908163088 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—OPEC Secretary-General Dr. Subroto arrived here Monday morning on the sixth leg of his tour of oil producing countries. He was welcomed at the Mehrabad International Airport by Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh.

In a short interview with reporters at the airport, Subroto said he is here to discuss the international oil market status and OPEC's production with Iranian officials.

He did not specify the organization's current production because of unreliable figures.

He also refused to comment on Iraq's demand for a production quota equal to Iran's but stressed that none of the 13 members should violate the organization's decisions. Quotas would be discussed in the next OPEC conference, he added.

In his tour of oil producing states, Subroto earlier visited Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico and Kuwait. In Tehran he is to hold talks with a number of Iranian officials including Oil Minister Aqazadeh.

Confers With Khamene'i

LD3008141688 Tehran IRNA in English 1215 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA—Visiting OPEC Secretary-General Dr. Subroto met with President 'Ali Khamene'i and briefed him on the international oil market status here Tuesday. He also expressed hope that establishment of a lasting peace in the region would strengthen OPEC's position and improve world oil market.

In response, President Khamene'i said the unity of OPEC member states and the organization's resolve to its problems has been the prime concern of the Islamic Republic.

Khamene'i expressed hope that OPEC members would strictly observe their quotas in the future.

Subroto arrived here Monday on the 6th leg of his tour of oil exporting countries.

Holds Talks With Aqazadeh

LD2908203088 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug 29, IRNA—The first round of talks between OPEC Secretary-General Dr. Subroto and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh started here Monday afternoon.

During the meeting, Subroto briefed Aqazadeh on the outcome of his earlier visits to some oil producing countries including Venezuela, Ecuador, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and on measures so far taken to resolve the organization's internal problems.

In response, Aqazadeh informed Subroto of Iran's stance on OPEC issues, the international market status and quotas of member states.

The former Indonesian oil minster, who arrived here today on the sixth leg of his current tour of oil producing countries, is to visit Baghdad next. His first five stops before coming to Tehran were Mexico, Ecuador, Venezuela, Colombia and Kuwait.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD3108092388 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA—Secretary General of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Dr. Subroto left Tehran Wednesday morning at the end of a two-day visit and talks with ranking Iranian officials.

In meetings with President 'Ali Khamene'i and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh he discussed oil and OPEC related issues including production quota of OPEC members and market prices. He was also informed of Iran's stance towards the current oil market situation.

Subroto's visit to Tehran was part of his visits to a number of OPEC members and oil producing countries for coordinating the organisation's policies.

Commentary Assails Equal Oil Quota for Iraq

LD2908163788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1109 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Political commentary]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] With the establishment of a cease-fire, the re-entry of Iraq into the OPEC quota system has been raised by other OPEC members and particularly by the OPEC secretary general. Up to now, the allocation of members' quotas has been done within the framework of specific criteria and in view of various factors, such as population, oil reserves, past production level, and other factors. It must continue to be done on the basis of those some principles. Bearing in mind these factors, the Iraqi regime can never have a quota equal to that of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, the allocation of an equal quota for Iran and Iraq is entirely unprincipled. Such a plan was raised for the first time at a meeting of Arab leaders in Amman by the Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] and Kuwait regimes. However, Iran and some other OPEC members have consistently opposed it, because a quota equal to Iran's is in fact a kind of increase in the Iraqi quota.

Actually, it is surprising that the idea of equal quotas for Iran and Iraq has been raised by some of OPEC's officials in the current conditions. Ever since it left the OPEC quota system and increased its production, Iraq has published incorrect information to try to (?justify) the idea of a quota equal to Iran's on the basis of OPEC principles. For example,, the level of oil reserves is one of OPEC's criteria for the allocation of a quota. During the past year, Iraq has published various baseless pieces of information with regard to an increase in its oil reserve levels, which are completely inaccurate.

At any rate, in allocating Iraq's quota, the OPEC secretary general must also pay attention to the behavior of countries which through neutral exports of oil from the region play a fundamental role in Iraq's increase in production. It may be that at the time of the Iran-Iraq war some people wrongly justified equal quotas for Iraq and Iran with reference to war conditions. Now, however, there is a cease-fire and the possibility of peace exists. Therefore, even that incorrect justification cannot be raised.

In any case, it is hoped that the OPEC secretary general's trip to Iran and then to Iraq will lead to good results in connection with greater stability in the oil market and an increase in prices.

2 New Outposts on Turkish Border Inaugurated

LD3108051188 Tehran IRNA in English 0500 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan, Aug. 31, IRNA—Two newly-built border control outposts identified as Outposts Number 284 and 291 were inaugurated at Qotur of Khvoy, West Azarbayjan Province of Iran Tuesday.

Since 1986 15 new outposts have been erected on Iran-Turkey borderline in West Azarbayjan Province.

Khamene'i Expresses Condolences to Pakistan

LD2908164088 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i went to the Pakistani Embassy in Tehran Monday and signed a memorial book for the late Pakistani President Ziaul Haq who was killed in a plane crash on August 17.

The president expressed his condolences to the Pakistani people and government and also to the Pakistani ambassador to Tehran Tanvir Ahmad Khan and other ranking embassy officials.

The president wrote in the book that undoubtedly the death of Ziaul Haq is a loss to the islamic Republic Government of Iran and a sad incident for him personally.

He added that the late Pakistani president was an outstanding politician in the region and a friend to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Khamene'i said cordial ties between the two Muslim countries of Iran and Pakistan was largely due to the sincere efforts of Ziaul Haq, which Iran highly values.

President Khamene'i further wrote that his three-day visit to Pakistan two years ago was a major event of his presidency which was made in response to the friendly sentiments shown by President Ziaul Haq.

The president regretting the Pakistani president's sudden death wished prosperity and success for the people of Pakistan.

He also told Tanvir Ahmad Khan that the loss of President Ziaul Haq greatly aggrieved Iranians and expressed hope that the existing ties between the two countries would grow stronger.

In response, the Pakistani ambassador thanked the president and said the friendsip between Iran and Pakistan and at a later stage with Turkey was one of the greatest wishes of the late Pakistani president. Ziaul Haq was of the opinion that such a closeness would change the policy of the region, said Tanvir Ahmad Khan.

He stated that the current Pakistani government will strive for further expansion of Tehran-Islamabad relations, and said that Iran is a close friend of Pakistan and will continue to remain so.

Khamene'i Visits Families of Martyred Officials
LD3008182788 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA—On the occasion of the seventh martyrdom anniversary of President Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and Premier Mohammad Javad Bahonar, President 'Ali Khamene'i along with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and his cabinet members called on the bereaved families here today.

In the meeting, the officials praised the role of Raja'i and Hojjat ol-Eslam Bahonar in the Islamic Revolution's triumph.

The then president and premier achieved martyrdom in a bomb explosion at the Prime Ministry building on August 30, 1981, the handiwork of the anti-revolutionary "Monafeqin" (Hypocrites) Khalq Organisation.

Khamene'i Arrives in Mashhad 30 Aug
NC3108055788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, arrived in Mashhad at midnight last night. He was welcomed at the airport by a number of officials of Khorasan Province, including the imam's representative and the custodian of the holy shrine of Imam Reza.

The Central News Unit reports that this visit is taking place to enable the president to make a pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza and meet with the people of Khorasan.

Mo'ayeri, SFRY Ambassador Discuss Reconstruction
LD2808125688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] The Yugoslavia ambassador to Tehran, in a meeting with Political Deputy Prime Minister [title as heard] Mo'ayeri this morning, declared his country's readiness to participate in reconstructing the war-damaged areas.

Our country's political deputy prime minister, noting that the commander of the UNIIMOG [United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group] was a Yugoslav general, wished him success in correctly conducting his duties.

Musavi Invited To Visit Yugoslavia
LD2808205388 Tehran IRNA in English 1346 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA—Yugoslavian Ambassador Mirko Zaric met with Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri here Sunday.

In the meeting, Zaric re-extended Yugoslavian Prime Minister Branko Mikulic's invitation to his Iranian counterpart Hoseyn Musavi to pay an official visit to Belgrade.

Zaric, referring to Security Council Resolution 620 passed on Friday in condemnation of the renewed (Iraqi) use of chemical weapons against Iran, noted the resolution's text had deliberately been toned down in order not to damage the trend of Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva.

He also announced Yugoslavia's preparedness to contribute to post-war reconstruction projects in Iran.

In response, Mo'ayeri thanked Zaric for the Yugoslavian premier's invitation to his Iranian counterpart, hoping that Prime Minister Musavi would be able to pay a visit to Belgrade in the near future.

Mo'ayeri also wished success for commander of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) Major General Slavko Jovic who is a Yugoslavian.

Official Comments on Flood Deaths, Damage
LD3008184688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Text] In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent, the head of Firozkuh's Red Crescent Society commented on the extent of the damage caused by recent floods and on how relief work was going. He said: The effected areas include commercial, residential, and cattle-breeding units, as well as roads, underground irrigation networks, and agricultural and irrigated areas.

Thirty villages near Damavand and 261 houses in Damavand and Rudehen towns were damaged 40 percent to 70 percent. Also 70 percent of the houses in Ab'ali were damaged or destroyed. Furthermore, 90 persons have been killed, injured, or are unaccounted for, according to yesterday's count.

He said: Following the flood, relief headquarters personnel, assisted by the central Red Crescent Society, began their relief work energetically. This included sending four truckloads of foodstuff and clothes.

Larijani on Reconstruction, Prisoner Exchange
NC2708191988 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Aug 88

["Seventh and last part" of report on interview with Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister for American and European affairs, by unidentified correspondents on 13 August; place not given]

[Text] Asked about Iran's conditions regarding participation of those countries which offer to help in Iran's reconstruction during the postwar era, Brother Larijani said: The reconstruction of the country is a great project. The prime minister has prepared a thorough program, and the ministries concerned are now busy in this regard. He explained that the conditions for participation are that the countries concerned have the necessary resources, enjoy good economic and technical capacities, and keep pace with our policy. It is natural, he said, for Iran to give priority to countries which remained friendly during the war. He added: The Islamic Republic will not confront any difficulties in construction projects because it is a rich country with abundant wealth and great human capacity, considered one of the best in the Third World and capable of its own reconstruction.

Regarding the direct and indirect discussions in Geneva, Brother Larijani pointed out that Article 4 of Security Council Resolution 598 refers to both types of discussions. He said: The acceptance of the UN secretary general's executive plan included the acceptance of direct discussions. However, Iraq's stand on the direct discussions is shameful. It would be better for Iraq to stop creating obstacles.

Asked about the date for the exchange of prisoners of war, Larijani said: During the war we prepared various programs for this exchange. Many of our prisoners are civilians. We have always sympathized with the prisoners' families. The Iraqi Government did not cooperate with the International Red Cross vis-a-vis the registration of prisoners' names, the dispatch of their letters, and other issues. These matters are documented in the organization's report. We insist on the return of our prisoners as soon as possible. The UN secretary general has submitted a preliminary proposal regarding the prisoners stipulating the exchange of all prisoners within 3 months after the cease-fire takes effect. We approve of this proposal.

Answering another question on the exchange of prisoners in equal numbers, Larijani said: This contradicts the Geneva Convention. This convention, supervised by the Red Cross, stresses the exchange of all prisoners, regardless of number.

Regarding Iraq's stand on Iraqi military prisoners who have realized their mistakes, Larijani said: According to the Geneva Convention, the prisoners are free to return to their country or go to any other country. In other words, the prisoners will be placed at the disposal of the Red Cross. They can seek asylum in Iran or any other country. This will take place in the presence of the Red Cross representative. If the prisoners feel they will be in danger, they can opt not to return to Iraq. However, we impose no conditions on any prisoner.

Larijani was told that Saddam has termed himself triumphant in his own media. What will the area's future be in the light of Saddam's feelings? he was asked. He responded: If the Iraqis demonstrate that they are happy it indicates they did not want the war. Saddam started the war to realize some goals and claims. However, he has achieved none of them. Iraq has learned a big lesson. Therefore, it has to set aside aggressive ideas. It is stupid for a government to count the number of guns, tanks, and planes and then launch an attack, instigated by others, against a neighbor. If Iraq has learned this lesson, this will be received with satisfaction in the area. The future will clarify this.

Japanese Aid in Reconstruction Plans Noted
LD2808165388 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—Active Tehran-Tokyo cooperation to complete the joint Iran-Japan petrochemical complex which is considered symbol of mutual relations is a positive step for carrying out other joint projects, said Iran's ambassador to Tokyo, Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli here today.

Numerous joint industrial projects including the Iran-Japan petrochemical complex became stagnant after the Iraqi-imposed war.

Iran's policy is to complete the project according to contract and it seems that the Japanese Government will offer necessary assistance to the executive company of the project, Mitsui to show its goodwill.

'Adeli said implementation of other joint projects between Japanese companies and Iranian organisations will be discussed later.

On post-war reconstruction, the ambassador said Iran will welcome foreign industrial cooperation on the basis of its political and economic beliefs which are preservation of principles of Islamic Revolution and independence of the country. From economic point of view, contracts will be signed with regards to the potentials and capabilties of each country in each specific sector.

He said in the wake of Iran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 on July 18 and announcement of cease-fire in the Iraqi imposed war on August 20, many countries including Japan expressed their willingness to help Iran in its post- war reconstruction.

With regards to the past records of Tehran-Tokyo economic and technical cooperation and since Japan has been a leading economic partner to Iran during the

recent years, it has offered to cooperate with Iran in the reconstruction of the country earlier than others. He reminded that Japan with a better understanding of the imposed-war and Iraqi aggression on Iran endeavored to end the war justly.

The positive cultural views Iranians have towards Japan place Japan in a better position for becoming a close partner to Iran. But, 'Adeli noted, improvement of her trade ites and political understanding with Iran, brought negative reactions for Japan by the U.S. Therefore, under U.S. pressures, Japan was sometimes been forced to handle its relations with Iran with great precaution. The practical manifestation of the reservation was seen in a relative decrease in commercial exchanges including her oil purchases from Iran.

On Japan's participation in Iran's post-war economic reconstruction, 'Adeli said Japan along with other countries could help Iran in the needed fields. Numerous Japanese companies have expressed willingness and some have sent delegations to Iran. He said several other countries have also sent delegations for the same purpose.

Culture Minister Comments on Postwar Era

LD2708201088 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 27 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA—Minister of Culture and Ershad-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami today described Government Week (Aug. 27-Sept 2) as an opportunity for cementing the government-people alliance at a time when the Islamic revolution is entering a new stage.

Khatami reiterated Iran's committment to Security Council Resolution 598 and to its full implementation and stressed that keeping promise is an islamic value.

The culture and ershad-e eslami minister made the remarks in his inaugural speech at an exhibition on the government's achievements that opened here on the first day of Government Week.

Elsewhere in his speech, Khatami, referring to Iran's post-war reconstruction project, said the country will never accept domination by world industrial powers but will welcome international cooperation on a logical basis.

The end of the Iraqi-imposed war does not mean the end of the Islamic revolution and therefore Iranian people should not consider the post war era as a time for over-consumption, he said.

Later, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami, accompanied by a number of other ministers and political officials toured various pavilions of the exhibition held by various ministries and revolutionary organs.

Government week is marked during Aug. 27-Sept 2 every year in honour of the martyrs Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and Premier Mohammad Javad Bahonar [names as received] who were martyred in a bomb explosion at the prime minister's office here in 1981.

'Government Week' Stresses Postwar Programs

NC2808083088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary: "Where Do We Begin the New Period?"]

[Excerpts] This year Government Week commences in the wake of a cease-fire, which took effect last week following an 8-year war between Iran and Iraq. In this manner, a major impediment imposed by world oppression on the course of the revolution and on the path of the Islamic Republic's system has been removed. [passage omitted]

The revolution is now forging ahead on a smoother and clearer course as regards the implementation of its objectives and specific principles. The people of the world are waiting to see how the revolution travels on this path. In the contemporary era, the government of any country is one of the most important factors promoting growth and progress. Every social change and every constructive movement necessitates the unceasing activity of this social organization. Government, whose real base is the people, is the brilliant consummation of the union and participation of a nation. Thus, the changes, construction, and social growth planned and envisaged by a government must be carried out on the basis of the participation of and with the consensus of the public. Only in this way will there be an enhanced possiblity for the success of executive plans.

Now that we are at a very sensitive juncture in the contemporary era of the revolution, as well as on the brink of a path leading to the scientific and economic growth of the country, it is essential that we proceed along meticulously calculated lines toward prinicipled and (?systematic) planning and under correct direction. It is imperative that extensive and comprehensive research be carried out in connection with the government's future planning. In this regard, there should be coordination with the country's universities and centers of higher education, as well as the absorption of specialized and expert forces. [passage omitted]

It also is necessary, therefore, to eliminate the present uncertainty and ambivalence in order to prevent any possible repercussions. For this purpose, and for better overall implementation of the approved schemes, it is necessary for there to be coordination between the three branches of government. It also is important with regard to planning that the people in general, and experts in social affairs in particular, should participate. It is

important, while travelling along this path, for the means of collective communication, especially the publications, to exert their efforts to the major task of disseminating the peoples' opinion.

In this manner, the people's participation in planning, as well as in execution and implementation, can be expanded and their real talents and potential can be tapped to the optimum. Public mobilization in the decade after the revolution, has resulted in the assimilation of valuable experience, which our officials have repeatedly witnessed. Our officials can once again utilize this experience within the framework of an intensive and calculated program at this stage as well, so that the execution of the government's programs may be enhanced.

In conclusion, it is immensely important to appropriately economize in plans and pay attention to the theoretical and practical aspects, as well as to refrain from duplication or haste. Similarly, in our attempts to utilize the talents of youth, we can use the experiences of other countries, while preserving the ideals of the revolution, in a suitable and wholesome manner so that we may also emerge successfully from the present stage.

Commentary on Steps Needed To Help 'Deprived'

NC3008112488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Aug 88

[Unattributed commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group entitled "The Revolution and the Deprived"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Despite the steps that have been taken, today many of Iran's toilers and fervent supporters of the revolution have an unsatisfactory standard of living and are facing material and financial problems. It is now time to implement the slogans on defending the deprived, those who—with bent backs and limited resources—have been supporters of the revolution for years, who continue to support it zealously, ready with all their heart and mind to defend its holy values, and whose only expectation is the creation of a healthy Islamic society.

In relation to these expectations, the Islamic Republic is facing problems such as the country's administrative organization, bureaucracy, and helplessness in its economic policy and in the private sector. Despite the steps taken, the extent of the problems is such that a possibly unintentionally weak approach has been unable to overcome the difficulties.

Now that the vista of peace and the prospects for the cease-fire and the end of the war are clearer, war expenditures can be used to overcome deprivation and to rebuild the country. Under such conditions, priority can be given to deprived areas and to all the deprived strata. Welfare programs designed to rid society of deprivation can be implemented. Also, it is necessary for the legislature to overcome legal problems. The private sector's activities and policies toward this end should be decided on as soon as possible.

Helplessness and doubts at the present stage slow down the revolution's process of evolution. Clashes of likes and dislikes hinder the course of the country's affairs; and, as a result, a convenient loophold is created for opportunists.

Another essential requirement at this stage is the reform of the country's administrative system. Deprivation cannot be overcome by material and financial means alone. Violators of social laws in the administrative organs should receive the severest degree of revolutionary punishment so that an unhealthy administrative atmosphere and pessimistic attitude toward the system can be prevented, and so that unhealthy moral shortcomings will also be gradually removed from society.

Undoubtedly, cultural dimensions should not be forgotten when combating social deprivation. Cultural deprivation is in itself something that leads to social violations, poverty, and social backwardness. Therefore, when priorities are established in the construction and reform of society, the cultural sector, in all its vast dimension, in both rural and urban areas, should receive more attention.

Finally, to overcome existing deprivation, the revolution should introduce systematized laws, set up coordination among the administrative organs, and bear principles in mind. The best way to achieve this is to centralize the appropriate organizations, eliminate unnecessary red tape, take practical action, and avoid the use of slogans.

May persistent activity and uninterrupted efforts toward this holy objective bear the best fruit, and make the revolutionary ideal of improving the lot of the deprived strata a genuine and practical reality.

Industry Ministry Releases 1987-88 Figures

LD2908170188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Aug 88

[Text] On the 3d day of Government Week—which has been designated Government Day: Industries and Economic Independence—the Industry Ministry issued a report on its performance for the year 1987-88.

According to this report, in 1987-88 the Industry Ministry issued a total of 1,457 agreements in principle, for a total capital investment of 3.57 billion rials, creating 47,984 jobs. The number of agreements in principle issued fell by 38 percent compared with 1986-87.

In 1987-88 a total of 871 permits for industrial units were issued, for a total investment of more than 73 billion rials, creating 12,275 jobs. The number of permits

issued fell by 20 percent compared with 1986-87, but the amount of fixed and total capital investments relating to these permits increased by 39 and 42 percent, respectively.

According to a Central News Unit report, in 1987-88 factories and manufacturing units under the Industry Ministry did their utmost to increase production and provide the country's requirements, considering the effects of the imposed war.

In 1987-88, sugar production rose by 44 percent, vegetable oil by 18 percent, milk by 1.3 pecent, cotton and synthetic materials by 6 percent, hemp and jute sacks by 14 percent, and paper by 7.3 percent. The production of cartons rose by 7 percent, engine oil by 5 percent, automobile tires and tubes by 20 percent, soap by 51.3 percent, assorted pharmaceuticals on an average of 20 percent, (?window) glass by 42 percent, and cleaning powder by 27 percent.

According to this report, the production of cigarettes fell by 2 percent, serge by 19 percent, and machine-made carpets by 22.5 percent. The production of matches fell by 4.2 percent, grease by 22 percent, batteries by 52.5 percent, electric light bulbs by 8 percent, and water coolers by 21 percent.

In this report, the Industry Ministry states: Severe foreign currency shortages resulting from the drop in the price of oil on international markets, problems resulting from the imposed war, and power cuts were the most important causes of the decreasd production of a number of industrial goods in the country.

Flag of Freedom Reports Move To Dissolve Majlis

LD2908173388 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 88

[Text] We have received a report indicating that [President] 'Ali Khamene'i and [Grand Ayatollah] Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri are trying to win the support of Ahmad Khomeyni [Khomeyni's son] and 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi's gang in order to convince Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani to dissolve the Majlis by claiming that Ruhollah Khomeyni has issued a decree to that effect.

We remind our listeners that most of the deputies in the current Majlis are the so-called students following the imam's line, the clergy who branched off from the combative clergy society, and other extremist mullahs. These people won election thanks to Interior Minister Mohtashemi's rigging of the ballots. All agents and supporters of Montazeri, Khamene'i, and Mahdavi-Kani lost in these elections.

Briefs

Narcotics Seized in Kerman

Kerman, Aug. 27, IRNA—The Islamic revolutionary committee personnel of Kerman Province this week seized 1,043 kilograms of narcotics and arrested four drug smugglers, said a committee official here Friday. He said more traffickers are now being hunted down in the province. At least 2.5 tons of narcotics have been confiscated in the province since March 21. [Text] [*LD2808024288 Tehran IRNA in English 0931 GMT 27 Aug 88*]

Pakistan

MRD Demands Removal of Caretaker Cabinets

BK3108031488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] In Pakistan the nine-party Movement for Restoration of Democracy, MRD, has demanded the removal of the present caretaker cabinets at the center and in the provinces to ensure fair elections. In a resolution adopted at the 2-day meeting of its Central Executive Committee in Karachi, the MRD called for an interim government with persons of integrity who have no vested interests in manipulating elections.

The All India Radio special correspondent, Manohar Takroo, reports from Karachi that the movement is all set to take the issue to the people if the government does not accept its demand. The movement convener, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, who released the resolution, said the people of Pakistan will not boycott the elections but will fight for their rights.

Acting Sind Chief Minister Sworn in 31 Aug

BK3108061888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 31 Aug 88

[Text] Akhtar Ali Qazi was sworn in as acting chief minister of Sind at a ceremony in Karachi this morning. Governor General Rahimuddin Khan, retired, administered the oath.

Sri Lanka

Violence Continues Between IPKF, Tamil Groups

LTTE Base Captured

BK2808121588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1045 GMT 28 Aug 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 28 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] yesterday killed four LTTE terrorists, wounded five, and seized a large haul of explosives when it captured a terrorist base in the jungles of Nithikaikulam, where some of the fiercest battles in

the IPKF operations against the LTTE terrorists have taken place during the last week, official sources told LANKAPUVATH. One junior commissioned officer of the IPKF was wounded in the battle.

As IPKF commandos [words indistinct] LTTE explosives base, they destroyed six Claymore mines and three improvised explosive devices clearing their way to the terrorist hideout.

The sources said that among the explosives seized were 20 jerry cans of liquid explosives, 40 kilograms of TNT (dynamite), one sack full of improvised explosive devices (IED), 4 booby trapped IED's, one Claymore mine, 100 metres of cordex wire, assorted switces and detonators. There were also 25 litres of coconut oil stored for cooking purposes.

The current IPKF Checkmate phase-III operation is concentrated in an area known as the Wanni sector in northern Sri Lanka where LTTE terrorists are hiding in its jungles.

A report from Batticaloa states that [figure indistinct] suspects were apprehended and are being interrogated by the IPKF. A detainee who attempted to escape was shot dead by Indian troops yesterday.

A report from Trincomalee states that one hardcore terrorist from Thiriyaya was captured and three suspects taken into custody.

Indian troops also recovered 3 IED's, 500 metres of electric wire and 3 detonators which were in their possession.

At Polukandy, in the Jaffna sector a terrorist after having thrown a grenade had mingled with the crowd. Troops apprehended five suspects subsequent to the incident. Indian troops also captured two terrorists at Pandethijippu and one other at Chunnakam. One 60 MM mortar bomb was also seized from the terrorists.

'Heavy Fighting' Continues

BK3108093988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0816 GMT 31 Aug 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 31 Aug (LANKAPUVATH)—Heavy fighting continued in the jungles of Nittikaikulam in the Wanni sector. Two LTTE terrorists and 1 Indian soldier were killed during the last 24 hours, and 1 terrorist and 2 Indian soldiers, one of them an IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] officer, were wounded in a gun battle.

One LTTE terrorist was shot dead and another wounded by the IPKF at Adivapattam in Jaffna. The IPKF also raided and destroyed an LTTE camp west of Trincomalee. Indian troops also captured 3 terrorists 5 kms south west of Toppur.

The IPKF located an abandoned LTTE camp in the Batticaloa sector while a hardcore terrorist Shiva Kumar was wounded during a shootout between the IPKF and terrorists at Kalmunai.

The wounded terrorist had tried to swallow a cyanide capsule but was prevented from doing so. Three terrorists were also apprehended in the same operation.

A report from Morakottanchenai stated that 4 masked terrorist gunmen raided the residence of Eliyathamby Chanmugam and shot him dead.

One hardcore LTTE terrorist Kalamzian alias Kavi described as being earlier employed as the driver of Velupillai Prabhakaran and now working with the LTTE political leader of Vavuniya, Dinesh, was captured in an area south west of Mannar.

Indian troops in operations in the north recovered 2 claymore mines and 1 hand grenade at Elephant Pass. Seven terrorists were apprehended in separate incidents in the Jaffna sector.

7 Killings in Separate Incidents Reported

BK2908125188 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1145 GMT 29 Aug 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, August 29 (LANKAPUVATH)—A police constable was shot dead and two others injured when southern terrorists opened fire at a police mobile patrol at Indole in the Urubokke police area in Sri Lanka's Matara District yesterdy.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH today that subversives fired at the police mobile patrol, killing P.C.D. Sirisena and injuring two other police constables.

The sources also said that three unidentified armed persons shot and killed W.M. Seneviratne, a provincial council member, and the chairman of the gramodhaya mandalaya [village council] in Siyabalanduwa yesterday. His son Sunil Dharamathilake was injured in the attack.

A report from Alwatte states that an unidentified gang entered the house of R.D.M. Pushpa Deva, a grama sevaka [village volunteer] and killed him yesterday. The report further states that three 7.62 empty casings were located from the scene.

In Kottegoda in the Dickwella police area A.B. Subasinghe, a United National Party (UNP) supporter, was shot by two unidentified gunmen at his residence.

At Midigama East in the Weligama police area unidentified persons shot dead G.T. Harilal on Saturday.

The sources said that unidentified persons had shot dead W.T. Gunaratne whilst he was on his way to a boutique in Kotiyagala in the Siyabalanduwa police area in Sri Lanka's Monaragala District.

At Indivinna, Hambantota, an unidentified gunman armed with a locally made gun shot and killed Mr. A. Mohomad Sharreen, former bodyguard of the Hambantota district minister yesterday.

'Terrorist' Boat Carrying Explosives Seized

BK3008115188 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1120 GMT 30 Aug 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, August 30 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Sri Lankan Navy made a large haul of explosives when a patrol boat of the Sri Lankan Navy apprehended a wooden terrorist craft about 5 miles north of "80 Sandbank" in the seas off Talaimannar late Sunday night. 4

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the boat carrying 500 sticks of gelignite, 1000 detonators, 9 reels of detonating cords and 12 terrorists on board was moving from Rameswaran, South India, to Talaimannar in north west Sri Lanka when detected by the naval patrol boat at 2330 hours local time Sunday.

Four terrorists and the explosives had been taken on board the naval boat, but eight others were asked to follow in the terrorist boat as it was not possible to tow the boat due to the sea being rough and poor visibility.